TUESDAY
May 9, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY POLLS

High-decibel campaign comes to an end

STATE » PAGE 6

TO KUNO OR NOT

Experts review India's cheetah project

NEWS » PAGE 12

MIG-21 ACCIDENT

Crashed IAF jet kills 3 civilians in Rajasthan

NEWS » PAGE 10

DATA POINT

The Hill-Valley divide in Manipur

Better facilities and jobs are found in the Valley

OPINION » PAGE 9

THRILLING WIN

Russell and Rinku take KKR past PBKS

SPORT » PAGE 13

Class 10 exam results out; pass % is 83.89

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 83.89% students cleared the Class 10 exam, the results of which were announced on Monday.

Chitradurga topped the State with 96.8%, followed by Mandya 96.74%, and Hassan 96.68%. This year too, girls outshone boys with 87.87 pass percentage as against the 80.08 of boys.

Four students secured 625 out of 625: Bhoomika Pai of New Macaulay English High school Hosur Main Road Bengaluru; Yashas Gowda, Sri BGS High School Chickballapur; Anupama Shrishail Hirehole, Sri Kumareshwara E M High School Saundatti, Belagavi; and Bheemana Gowda Hanumanta Gowda Biradar Patil of Oxford English Medium School, Vijayapura district.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 4

In Imphal, State relief camps lose tribals' trust

Lack of proper facilities and fear of being at the mercy of State police have had tribals — mostly Kukis — attempt to move to facilities run by the Army or CAPF as rehabilitation picks up slowly

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Left wanting: The tribals in the Manipur Rifles-run camps have complained of having no food, no proper drinking water. AFP

Even as residents in Imphal said the first batch of tribals stranded in the Valley had been sent back to Churachandpur and Kangpokpi, many more tribals, mostly Kukis, stranded in camps run by the Manipur government are desperately trying to move into the camps run by the Centre – either Army camps or those run by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

While security forces are trying to facilitate the rehabilitation of those stranded in Imphal (tribals, mostly Kukis) and Churachandpur (Meiteis) since the violence broke out on May 3, several tribals who have lost their homes and belongings in the mob violence are finding shelter in community halls and wherever else they can.

In Imphal, at least two of the security forces' relief camps are on the Manipur Rifles (MR) compounds, which are run by the State government. Additionally, there are camps set up by the Army and the Central forces.

However, tribals who are being housed at the MR camps told *The Hindu* that they are trying their best to relocate to either Army-run or Centre-run camps – one, because they believe Army-run facilities will be better managed and two, because there is a complete breakdown of trust towards State government forces.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Eerie silence prevails in Churachandpur

NEW DELHI
As Churachandpur remains on edge from threat of violence, an orphanage in the district is running out of essentials such as groceries, ration, and medicines, residents who run the home said on Monday. Meanwhile, hundreds of tribals who lost their houses are also seeking shelter. » PAGE 11

The crisis in Manipur is a humanitarian problem: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday called the Manipur crisis a "humanitarian problem" while noting that it is the President, and not the High Court, who has the power to designate a community as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

"We have made our concern explicit about the need for protection of people and property, and the need for restitution and stabilisation. This is a humanitarian problem. We are concerned deeply about the loss of life and property," CJI D.Y. Chandrachud told the Centre and the Manipur Government, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The court stressed the need to make due arrangements in relief camps.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Court's order will be discussed with all stakeholders: Shah

Vijaita Singh
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that the Manipur High Court's order to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the majority Meitei community in Manipur will be discussed with all stakeholders, and there was no need for anyone to be scared. Meanwhile, the Army enhanced aerial surveillance along the Manipur-Myanmar border to keep a watch on any misadventure by insurgent groups in the neighbouring country, a source said.

The Manipur High Court on March 27 directed the State government to submit a recommendation for the inclusion of Meiteis in the ST list, asking to consider the proposal preferably within four weeks. The final decision, however, lies with the Centre. This has been opposed by the 34 Scheduled Tribes in Manipur who comprise 41% of the State's population.

"The court has passed an order. This will be discussed with all concerned stakeholders and the Manipur Government will take an appropriate decision after consultations. There is no need for any person or group to be scared," Mr. Shah said in an interview to a television channel.

The State government has not challenged the order in the court yet.

CURFEW RELAXED
» PAGE 11

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Karnataka-da Nanna Sahodara-Sahodariyare, Namaskara!

You have always showered me with love and affection. It feels like a divine blessing to me. '**Ee Baariya Nirdhara, Bahumatada BJP Sarkara**' – this call of the people of Karnataka is still echoing in my ears.

In our **Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal**, we Indians have aimed to make our beloved country a developed nation. Karnataka is keen to lead the movement to realise this vision. **India is the world's fifth-largest economy. Our next aim is to reach the top three.** This is possible only when Karnataka rapidly grows to become a **$1 trillion economy.** You have witnessed the work of the **Double Engine BJP government** over the last 3.5 years. Our **decisive, focused and futuristic policies** are imparting momentum to the growth of Karnataka's economy.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Karnataka has received over **₹90,000 crore annually as foreign investment** under the BJP government. It was just around ₹30,000 crore under the previous government. This shows the BJP's commitment to Karnataka's progress and to a bright future for the youth.

We want to make Karnataka the **Number 1 in investment, industry and innovation.**
We want to make Karnataka the **Number 1 in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship.**

We are working to empower the farmers with a **Beej Se Bazar Tak vision.** Through new irrigation projects, expansion of storage facilities, increasing ethanol blending, usage of nano urea and modern technology such as drones, BJP is committed to making **Karnataka the Number 1 in agriculture.**

The decisions taken by the Double Engine government to **boost connectivity, Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business** have built a strong foundation for Karnataka to become India's Number 1 state.

The cultural heritage of Karnataka has always inspired our nation as well as me personally. **Jagajyothi Basaveshwara, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, Shri Kanakadasa, Onake Obavva** – this land has given us many such greats. Guided by their legacy, the BJP is working to build a modern Karnataka that would make them proud.

The BJP government will continue to work to create **next-gen urban infrastructure** across Karnataka, **modernize transport, raise the quality of life in rural and urban areas,** and creates **new opportunities for women and youth.**

Dream of every citizen of Karnataka is my dream. Your resolve is my resolve. When we come together and set our minds to a goal, **no force in the world can stop us.** I seek your blessings in the **mission of making Karnataka the Number 1 state** in the country.

I pray to bless Karnataka with success and prosperity.
I sincerely appeal that you **exercise your franchise** on the **10th of May** to make **Karnataka the Number 1 state.**

My appeal is for the bright future of Karnataka. It is for the bright future of your family, especially the younger generations.

Yours,
Narendra Modi

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Ee Baariya Nirdhara - Bahumatada BJP Sarkara

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Published by: BJP Karnataka

JERUSALEM

EU cancels Israel reception over extremist minister's participation

REUTERS

The European Union said it was cancelling its Europe Day reception in Tel Aviv after the extremist Israeli Minister stood firm in his intention to participate. Reports emerged on Sunday about the EU's discontent over National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's being the government representative to the reception. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. Army slams Imran Khan for 'baseless' claims against ISI officer

ANI

Pakistan's Army slammed Imran Khan for "highly irresponsible and baseless" allegations by him against a serving ISI officer without any evidence as a fresh war of words broke out between the military and the former Prime Minister. He had accused ISI's Gen Faisal Naseer of orchestrating plans to murder him. PTI

TALLINN

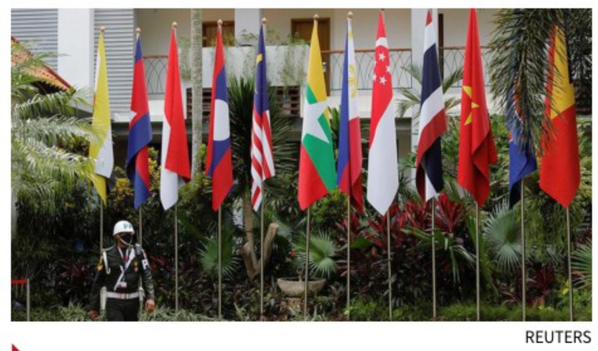
After adopting new Constitution, Uzbekistan calls presidential polls

REUTERS

Uzbekistan's leader called a snap presidential election for July, with the announcement coming a week after a constitutional referendum extended the term from five years to seven. It wasn't clear who would compete in the July 9 election, but President Shavkat Mirziyoyev would have almost no chance of losing. AP

YANGON

Convoy carrying ASEAN diplomats in Myanmar comes under attack



REUTERS

A convoy of diplomats travelling in Myanmar came under fire from an unknown armed group on Monday. The convoy was carrying diplomats from the embassies of Indonesia and Singapore and officials coordinating humanitarian relief from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional bloc. AFP

Vehicle rams group outside Texas migrant centre, kills 8

Associated Press
BROWNSVILLE

At least eight persons were killed and several others injured on Sunday when an SUV ran a red light and ploughed into a group waiting at a bus stop outside a migrant aid centre in the U.S. state of Texas, the police said.

Law enforcement said they were treating the incident as an accident for now, although a witness said the driver had yelled insults at the group before accelerating.

The grey sport utility vehicle "went through a red light and ran over several people" at around 8:30 am (1900 IMT) in Brownsville, a border city at the southernmost tip of the State, the police said.

Xi Jinping to host first meet with all Central Asia leaders

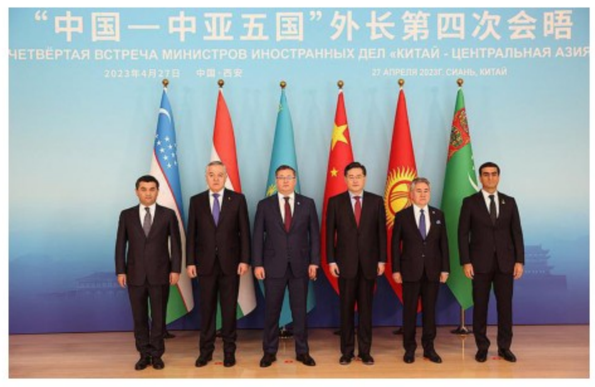
The summit in the historic city of Xi'an on the ancient Silk Road is the first of its kind since the establishment of formal relations 31 years ago following the fall of the Soviet Union

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host a two-day summit with the leaders of five Central Asian nations next week, Beijing said on Monday, as China moves to increase its influence in the region.

Leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are expected to attend the China-Central Asia Summit from May 18 to 19, China's Foreign Ministry said.

The summit in the historic city of Xi'an on the ancient Silk Road is the first of its kind since the establishment of formal relations 31 years ago, according to the ministry, and will focus on strengthening economic and diplomatic ties with Beijing.



Team building: A file photo of Foreign Ministers of the five Central Asian countries with their Chinese counterpart Qin Gang.

China has invested billions of dollars to tap natural gas reserves in Central Asia.

Rail links connecting China to Europe criss-cross the region and are key to the success of Mr. Xi's trillion-dollar global infrastructure project, the Belt and Road Initiative.

Russian influence

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Monday that Mr. Xi would deliver a keynote speech during the summit and the leaders would jointly sign "important political documents".

The republics of Central Asia were part of the Soviet Union and have been dominated by Moscow since the mid-19th century.

But Russia's influence has been increasingly challenged since its invasion of Ukraine, with Beijing courting Moscow's traditional allies in the region.

Ukraine shoots down 35 drones as attacks kill four

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine air defences shot down 35 Iranian-made drones over Kyiv in Russia's latest nighttime assault, as attacks across Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces killed four civilians, officials said on Monday.

The bombardments came as Moscow enforced tight security on the eve of traditional Red Square commemorations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

Cancelled parades

Russian media counted at least 21 Russian cities that cancelled military parades – the staple of Victory Day celebrations across Russia – on May 9 for the first time in years. Regional officials cited "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation."

Holding up: A man looks at a residential building damaged by the debris of a Russian intercepted drone in Kyiv. GETTY IMAGES

Parades will go ahead in Russia's largest cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg. But the use of drones has been banned in both cities ahead of Victory Day.

Five persons in the capital were injured by falling drone debris. Air raid alarms sounded for more than three hours during the night.

Drone wreckage struck a two-story apartment building in Kyiv's western Svyatoshynskyi district, while other debris struck a car parked nearby, setting it on fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Chinese boats cross Indian and ASEAN ships during military exercise

Reuters
NEW DELHI/HANOI

Experts say Beijing is using maritime militia to intimidate and disrupt the naval exercises

Boats belonging to a Chinese maritime militia approached an area where the Navies of India and ASEAN countries were taking part in drills in the South China Sea, two Indian sources said on Monday.

An independent expert in Vietnam said Beijing appeared to be using the militia to intimidate and disrupt the naval exercise.

Beijing has not responded to Reuters queries about the alleged incident and its possible motives. The Indian and Vietnamese governments declined to comment.

No face-off

The two-day sea phase of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME 2023) began on Sunday with naval ships and aircraft from India, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei taking part.

They were in the Vietnamese Exclusive Economic Zone when the Chinese boats moved towards them, the Indian sources said. However, the militia boats and naval vessels crossed each other without any face-off, they said.

Indian authorities were tracking the movements of at least five militia boats, according to the sources, who did not wish to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

A Chinese research vessel was also following these boats towards the same area, they said.

Ray Powell, who leads Project Myoushu on the South China Sea at Stanford University, said the boats belong to the Qiong Sansha Yu militia fleet in the area.

Iran hangs two men in rare blasphemy case as executions surge

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran hanged two men on Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said, carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest.

Iran remains one of the world's top executioners, having put to death at least 203 prisoners since the start of this year alone, according to the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights. But carrying out executions for blasphemy remains rare, as previous cases saw the sentences reduced by authorities.

The two men executed, Yousef Mehrad and Sadrollah Fazeli Zare, died at Arak Prison in central Iran. They had been arrested in May 2020, accused of being involved in a channel on the Telegram message app called "Critique of Superstition and Religion," according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Both men faced months of solitary confinement and could not contact their families, the commission said.

The Mizan news agency of Iran's judiciary confirmed the executions, describing the two men as having insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad and promoted atheism. Mizan also accused them of burning a Quran.

Taiwan awaits fast-tracked U.S. weapons

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan is expecting a fast-tracked $500 million weapons package from Washington this year, the island's Defence Minister said on Monday. The self-ruled, democratic island lives under constant threat of an invasion by China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory.

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Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The increase in India's coal imports in financial year 2022-23

30 In percentage. India's coal imports surged in FY23 to 162.46 million tonnes. The import of coking coal rose 5.44% to 54.46 MT. The country remains heavily dependent on imports of coking coal. PTI

The number of passengers denied train travel in 2022-23

2.7 In crore. These passengers could not travel by train despite buying tickets because of being waitlisted, according to an RTI response. This indicates a shortage of trains on busy routes in the country. PTI

The Iranian-made drones shot down by Ukraine over Kyiv

35 Attacks across Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces have killed four civilians, officials said on Monday. Facing economic sanctions, Russia has routinely turned to Iranian Shahed drones to bolster its firepower. AP

The number of Go First planes that are to be deregistered

36 Go First's CEO Kaushik Khona said that of the total 55 aircraft in its fleet, 28 planes were on ground due to Pratt & Whitney engine issues while the remaining 27 were operational. PTI

The number of PACL investors who got their money back

19 In lakh. PACL investors have received ₹920 crore in refunds, according to SEBI. PACL Ltd had raised more than ₹60,000 crore through illegal collective investment schemes. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The lack of a drug recall law in India

What happens when substandard drugs are indiscriminately distributed in the market? Have there been discussions on implementing a drug recall law in the country? Why are pharmaceutical companies resisting a centralised drug recall authority?

EXPLAINER

Dinesh S. Thakur
Prashant Reddy T.

ISTOCKPHOTO

The story so far:

On April 25, Abbot, a multinational pharmaceutical company, published a public notice in newspapers alerting people about a mislabelled batch of medicine that it had inadvertently shipped to the market. While such recalls take place regularly in the U.S., we have never witnessed domestic or foreign pharmaceutical companies recall substandard or mislabelled drugs in India.

Is there a drug recall law in India?

One of the reasons for this difference in behaviour in India and the U.S. is because the law in the latter requires pharmaceutical companies to recall from the market those batches of drugs that have failed to meet quality parameters. India, on the other hand, has been mulling the creation of a mandatory recall law for substandard drugs since 1976, and yet no law exists that mandates such medicine be removed from the market to this day.

In 1976, the Drugs Consultative Committee, which consists of all the state drug controllers along with senior bureaucrats from the Ministry of Health and the national drug regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), discussed the issue of drug recalls. The minutes of this meeting record a discussion on how drugs ordered to be recalled by a state drug controller in one State were found to be on sale in another State. While the meeting resolved to have greater cooperation between various state drug controllers to facilitate better coordination, this decision never translated into amending the law to create a legally binding structure to enforce such recalls. Since then the issue has come up repeatedly in regulatory meetings in 1989, 1996, 1998, 2004, 2007, 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2019 but none of them resulted in amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to create a mandatory recall mechanism. In 2012, certain recall guidelines were published by the CDSCO but they lacked the force of law.

Why is there no recall law?

There are three possible answers to this question. The first is that the Drug Regulation Section of the Union Health Ministry is not up to the task of tackling complex drug regulatory issues due to a combination of factors including apathy, lack of expertise and a greater interest in enabling the growth of the pharmaceutical industry than protecting public health. The second possible factor is India's highly fragmented regulatory structure, with each State having its own drug regulator. But despite the fragmentation, drugs manufactured in one State can seamlessly cross borders to be sold in all States around the country.

To create an effective recall mechanism, the responsibility of recalling drugs has to be centralised, with one authority wielding the legal power to hold companies liable for failures to recall drugs from across the country. However, both the pharmaceutical industry and state drug regulators have resisted greater centralisation of regulatory powers. This opposition has little grounding in logic. If India is a single market for drugs, it follows that it should have one regulator. If not, the incompetence of a regulator in one State can lead to adverse effects for patients in other States.

The third possible factor is that India's drug regulators are aware of the fact that a mandatory drug recall system, which necessarily has to be centred on a system of wide publicity, will bring to public attention the state of affairs in India's pharmaceutical industry.

What happens when substandard drugs are not recalled?

People, including children, are almost certainly dying or suffering from adverse health events because substandard drugs are not swiftly removed from the market. Every month, dozens of drugs fail random-testing in government laboratories. Ideally, these drugs will be necessarily recalled in a transparent manner, with the people being informed of the failures.

If this were to actually happen in India, the people would be flooded with alerts on an almost daily basis, which then would increase the pressure on drug regulators to institute extensive reforms.

If the bureaucracy's intention is to avoid accountability, it might prefer to keep quiet and let substandard drugs, even those with dangerous consequences for consumers, circulate in the market. This has been their modus operandi for decades, until recently, when drug failures overseas brought attention to this issue. Yet nothing has changed on the ground.

The writers are co-authors of The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India.

THE GIST

- On April 25, Abbot, a multinational pharmaceutical company, published a public notice in newspapers alerting people about a mislabelled batch of medicine that it had inadvertently shipped to the market.
- India has been mulling the creation of a mandatory recall law for substandard drugs since 1976, and yet no law exists that mandates such medicine be removed from the market to this day.
- People, including children, are almost certainly dying or suffering from adverse health events because substandard drugs are not swiftly removed from the market. Every month, dozens of drugs fail random-testing in government laboratories.

What are the regulations to curtail misleading food ads?

What are the stipulations under the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018?

Saptaparno Ghosh
Sumeda

The story so far:

On April 29, the Advertisement Monitoring Committee at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) flagged 32 fresh cases of food business operators (FBOs) making misleading claims and advertisements. As per the regulator, the count of such offences has shot up to 170 in the last six months.

What are the regulations?

There are varied regulations to combat misleading advertisements and claims, some are broad, while others are product specific. For example, FSSAI uses the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising & Claims) Regulations, 2018 which specifically deals with food (and related products) while the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'s regulations cover goods, products and services. Further, the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 stipulate that advertisements must not imply that the products have "some special or miraculous or supernatural property or quality, which is difficult of being proved." The FSSAI seeks that the advertisements and claims be "truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers to comprehend the information provided". The claims must be scientifically substantiated by validated methods of characterising or quantifying the ingredient or substance that is the basis for the claim.

Product claims suggesting a prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of a disease, disorder or particular psychological condition is prohibited unless specifically permitted under the regulations of the FSS Act, 2006.

When can a product be referred to as 'natural' and 'fresh'?

A food product can be referred to as 'natural' if it is a single food derived from a recognised natural source and has nothing added to it. It should only have been processed to render it suitable for human consumption. The packaging too must be done sans chemicals and preservatives. Composite foods, which are essentially a mixture of plant and processed constituents, cannot call themselves 'natural', instead, they can say 'made from natural ingredients'.

'Fresh' can be used for products which are not processed in any manner other than washing, peeling, chilling, trimming, cutting or irradiation by ionising radiation not exceeding 1 kGy or any other processing such that it remains safe for consumption with the basic characteristics unaltered. Those with additives (to increase shelf life) may instead use 'freshly frozen', 'fresh frozen', or 'frozen from fresh' to contextualise that it was quickly frozen while fresh.

What about 'pure' and 'original'?

'Pure' is to be used for single-ingredient foods to which nothing has been added and which are devoid of all avoidable contamination, while unavoidable contaminants are within prescribed controls. 'Original' is used to describe food products made to a formulation, with a traceable origin that has remained unchanged over time. They do not contain replacements for any major ingredients. It may similarly be used to describe a unique process which has remained unchanged over time, although the product may be mass-produced.

What about 'nutritional claims'?

Nutritional claims may either be about the specific contents of a product or comparisons with some other foodstuff. Claims of equivalence such as "contains the same of (nutrient) as a (food)" or "as much (nutrient) as a (food)" may be used in the labelling provided that it gives the equivalent nutritional value as the reference food. According to Manisha Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary General at the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) , most complaints of misleading ads were related to the nutrition of a product, its benefits and the ingredient mix not being based on adequate evidence.

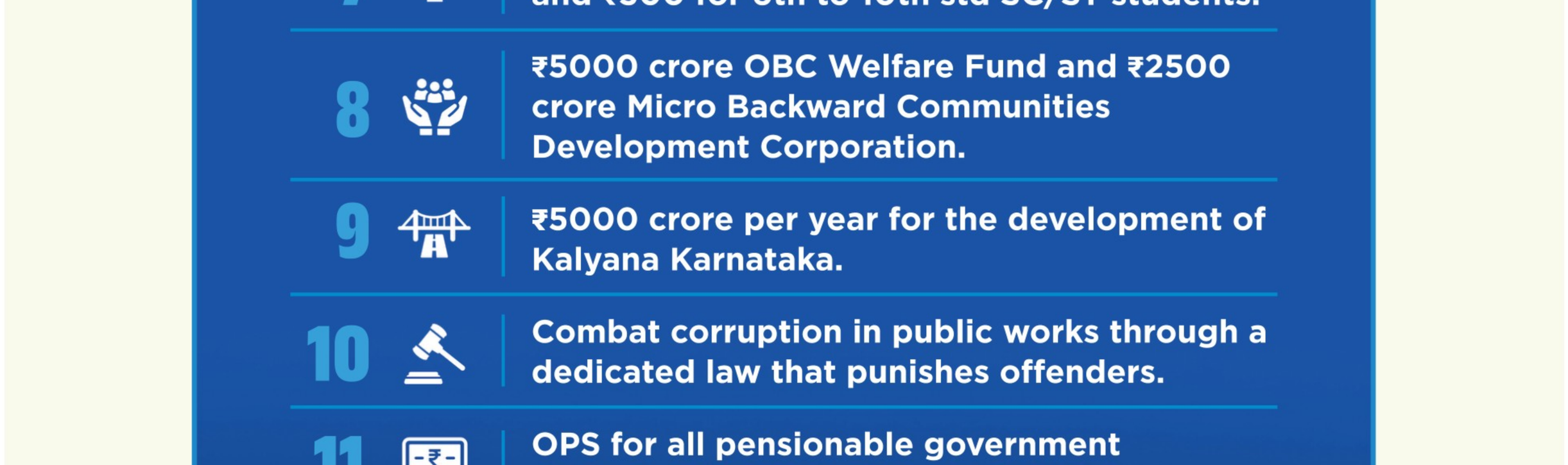
"A lot of claim data is to be based on technical data. For example, if you say, that there is Vitamin D in my product, we need evidence to substantiate that there indeed is Vitamin D in your product," she says, adding, "then if you claim that Vitamin D in your product can also help reduce fatigue, improve stamina or another claim like that – then there needs to be enough literature to substantiate that the ingredient does what is being stated".

THE GIST

- The Advertisement Monitoring Committee at the FSSAI flagged 32 fresh cases of food business operators (FBOs) making misleading claims and advertisements.
- According to Manisha Kapoor, CEO and Secretary General at the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) , most complaints of misleading ads were related to the nutrition of a product, its benefits and the ingredient mix not being based on adequate evidence.
- The FSSAI wants advertisements and claims to be "truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers to comprehend the information provided".

PROMISES FOR PROGRESS. PROMISES FOR THE PEOPLE.

1. Increase in the reservation cap from 50% to 75% to provide reservation to all communities.
2. ₹1.5 Lakh crore as Krishi Sarvodaya Nidhi for farmer welfare and ₹1.5 Lakh crore to complete all pending irrigation projects.
3. Ksheeradhare scheme to increase the per litre milk subsidy from ₹5 to ₹7.
4. 2.5 Lakh government job vacancies to be filled in the first year.
5. ₹15,000 monthly honorarium for Anganwadi workers, ₹10,000 for Mini Anganwadi workers and ₹8,000 for ASHA workers.
6. To establish a Gig Workers' Welfare Board with allotment of ₹3,000 Cr.
7. Monthly incentives of ₹150 for 1st to 5th std and ₹300 for 6th to 10th std SC/ST students.
8. ₹5000 crore OBC Welfare Fund and ₹2500 crore Micro Backward Communities Development Corporation.
9. ₹5000 crore per year for the development of Kalyana Karnataka.
10. Combat corruption in public works through a dedicated law that punishes offenders.
11. OPS for all pensionable government employees will be favourably considered.



Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000/month for women

Gruha Jyothi 200 units FREE electricity

Yuva Nidhi ₹3000/month for graduates | ₹1500/month for diploma holders

Anna Bhagya 10kg rice per person/month

Uchita Prayana Free Bus Service for Women

J BG-BGE

Shopkeepers along expressway continue to stare at losses

They say political parties don't seem to be interested in solving their livelihood issues with a long-term vision

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Many hotels and shops on old Bengaluru-Mysuru road were closed and owners say business was effected after the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway opened. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Shopkeepers who continue to suffer business losses after the opening of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway see no hope of recovery in the near future, and lament that no political party is interested in attending to their grievances.

Sanjay Gowda, owner of Sri Cauvery Arts and Crafts Emporium in Channapatna, says the expressway came as a big blow to their business when they were recovering from the impact of the pandemic.

"Prior to the opening of the expressway, on an average 150 customers used to visit our shop but it has dropped to 10 to 15 now. Shopkeepers are struggling to pay the rent and many have closed their shops. We have been selling Channapatna toys and other crafts for 60 years, and I have never seen this kind of business losses before."

Last year, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) partially opened the newly-built infrastructure. The inauguration of the expressway was perfomed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi prior to the announcement of the election dates.

In the second week of April, the entire main carriage of six lanes was fully made operational. The NHAI had promised that travel time would be reduced from 3 hours to 75 minutes. Reduction in travel time has given relief for motorists travelling between the two cities.

However, after the opening of the expressway in a phased manner, the movement of vehicles on the old highway significantly dropped, resulting in losses for those running hotels, eateries, petrol bunks, garages, and others. Somashekar, who runs a tea shop near Archakarahalli, said, "Earlier, I used to purchase 15 litres of milk to prepare tea, but now it has dropped to 3 litres per day. People running tea stalls and bakeries are now relying on local people for business as the movement of vehicles drastically dropped on this road. Many have closed down."

Muhammad Zafarullah, who works in a puncture shop, said, "There is hardly any movement of heavy vehicles on this road. It has become difficult to earn even ₹100 to ₹150 per day. How can people like us pay rent and run a business? You will find many examples like us on this stretch."

Somashekara, who works at a cafe and juice centre near the Kengal Anjaneyaswamy Temple, said, "Motorists heading towards Bengaluru used to stop vehicles near our shop. Now we hardly see any footfall. Considering the losses, our owner decided to open a cafe in Bengaluru. Some of our previous employees have gone there. We are now running the cafe with minimum staff."

Shop owners say hundreds of people have lost their jobs due to business losses. Many shops in the area are shut and boards are displayed stating that the shop is available for rent. One common thread running through all the conversations is that no political party has raised their issues in the run up to the election. They say that talks on caste affiliation, polarisation, and other manner of politicking have drowned out their long-term livelihood concerns.

The NHAI had claimed that the main carriageway of the expressway is access controlled. However, access from the service road to the main carriage is provided at many locations along the expressway. The NHAI has fixed bollards at many locations to give access for the vehicles coming from villages to enter the main carriageway.

Sridhara M., a villager in Byrapatna, said, "Earlier, the NHAI was reluctant to give access to the main carriageway but it was done after villagers insisted on it. There is a need for installation of signboards for the benefit of the motorists. But I suspect they may allow motorists to enter the main carriageway from the service road only after the elections end."

An official of the NHAI said, " We have noticed that using these points, many motorists are exiting the main carriageway without paying toll."

People travelling today will have to shell out more for private buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

People who are planning to travel by private buses on the eve of Election Day (May 10) to cast their votes have to pay hefty fares. Ticket booking sites are showing higher fares for those who are trying to book tickets on May 9.

For example, the Bengaluru-Mangaluru ticket fare ranges from ₹1,500 to ₹2,000 per seat, ₹1,200 to ₹2,000 for Belagavi, ₹1,400 to ₹1,800 to Hubballi, ₹2,000 to ₹2,700 to Kalaburagi, and ₹1,200 to ₹1,900 for Udupi.

A private bus operator said, "Anticipating a higher demand, some agents might have pre-booked tickets. This usually results in ticket booking sites showing higher fares for travel. This time during elections, there is moderate demand for bus service as the Election Commission has fixed the election date in the middle of the week. From cities like Bengaluru, some organisations had booked entire buses to ferry passengers. In the previous elections, political parties were luring voters by providing travel expenses, but this time the trend has changed."

Meanwhile, the KSRTC has decided to run 127 additional services from Bengaluru to various destinations in the State to meet the demand.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in a press release stated that in view of the Assembly Elections on May 10, Namma Metro services will be operated till the midnight hours.

As per the release, the trains from terminal stations such as Baiyappanahalli, Kengeri, Nagasandra and Silk Institute, K.R. Pura and Whitefield would leave at 12.05 a.m on May 11. The last train from Majestic interchange station will leave at 12.35 a.m towards Baiyappanahalli, Kengeri, Silk Institute and Nagasandra.

Padmanabhanagar and Bangalore South have re-elected their MLAs thrice, but problems persist

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The erstwhile Uttarahalli constituency, which was the largest in the State, was divided into Padmanabhanagar and Bangalore South constituencies, during delimitation in 2008.

Despite this division, Bangalore South remains the most populous constituency in the State with over 6.77 lakh voters.

While Uttarahalli was held by the Bharatiya Janata Party's R. Ashok from 1998 till 2008, Mr. Ashok has been winning continuously from Padmanabhanagar since 2008, even as M. Krishnappa, also from the BJP, has been winning continuously from Bangalore South since 2008.

Both are seeking re-election from their respective constituencies, even as the Opposition parties hope to dislodge them.

The Congress is particularly upbeat in Bangalore South this time, given that the BJP's own internal surveys showed a steep anti-incumbency for Mr. Krishnappa.

Mr. Ashok, who has been the Vokkaliga face of the BJP, has also been fielded against KPCC president D. K. Shivakumar in his pocket burough, Kanakapura, which sources said caught him off guard.

Though Mr. Shivakumar gave Mr. Ashok some tense moments, speculating that Mr. Shivakumar's brother and Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh would contest for the Congress in Padmanabhanagar, they finally settled for a newbie V. Raghunatha Naidu.

Mr. Ashok is dividing his time between Padmanabhanagar and Kanakapura.

Though the constituencies have re-elected their representatives multiple times, several civic problems persist. People complain about bad roads, traffic chaos, encroachment of lakes, lack of public health and education infrastructure, apart from drinking water issues in villages newly added to the city, part of Bangalore South constituency.

Voters of Padmanabhanagar allege that development across the constituency is not uniform and there is disparity. "In this constituency, areas like Padmanabanagar, Banashankari 1st and 2nd Stage, ISRO layout, Kumaraswamy Layout, and some parts of Jayanagar have good infrastructure. But areas like Kadirenahalli, Banashankari, Yarab Nagar, Hosakerehalli, and other parts are completely ignored. The incumbent MLA has not provided facilities like government hospitals, public libraries and skill training centres in these areas," Poornima, a resident of Kadirenahalli said.

While R.K. Ramesh from the Congress in Bangalore South constituency banks on anti-incumbency against Mr. Krishnappa and his work during the pandemic, Mr. Naidu in Padmanabhanagar is banking on anti-incumbency and caste combination to favour him. The constituency has the highest number of Naidu voters and that would favour him, the Congress hopes. To counter this, Mr. Ashok got Daggubati Purandeshwari, Telugu matinee idol and Naidu stalwart N.T. Rama Rao's daughter, to campaign for him.

Bangalore South Assembly Constituency

Main candidates

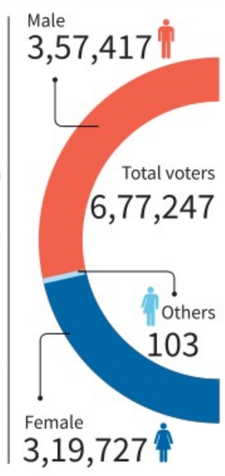
R.K. Ramesh
Congress

M. Krishnappa
BJP

H.P. Rajagopala Reddy
JD(S)

What people want
- Early completion of Konanakunte-Uttarahalli-Kengeri road
- Drinking water and underground drainage facilities in villages newly added to the city
- Super-speciality hospital
- Playgrounds and parks

History of the seat
- Bangalore South constituency came into existence after the 2008 delimitation of Assembly segments. Earlier, it was part of Uttarahalli constituency
- It is the most populous Assembly constituency in the State
- M. Krishnappa has been elected continuously thrice since 2008



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	M. Krishnappa BJP	1,02,207 40.76%	R. Prabhakar Reddy JD(S)	72,045 28.73%	Tejaswini Gowda Congress	63,849 25.46%
2018	M. Krishnappa BJP	1,52,469 47.74%	R.K. Ramesh Congress	1,22,052 38.24%	R. Prabhakar Reddy JD(S)	36,164 11.32%

Padmanabhanagar Assembly Constituency

Main candidates

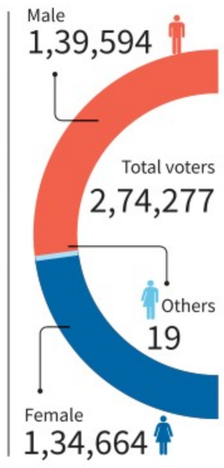
V. Raghunatha Naidu
Congress

R. Ashok
BJP

Manjunath
JD(S)

What people want
- Clearing lake encroachments and a permanent solution to prevent floods
- Multi-level car parking project
- Improving basic infrastructure
- Public hospital, library, and skill-training centres

History of the seat
- Padmanabhanagar constituency came into existence after the 2008 delimitation of Assembly segments. Earlier, it was part of Uttarahalli constituency
- It is a BJP's stronghold. R. Ashok has been elected continuously since 2008



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	R. Ashok BJP	53,680 41.82%	L.S. Chetan Gowda Congress	33,557 26.14%	M.R.V. Prasad JD(S)	26,272 20.47%
2018	R. Ashok BJP	77,868 48.18%	V.K. Gopal JD(S)	45,702 28.28%	M. Srinivas Congress	33,400 20.67%

Political parties go an extra mile to woo migrant voters with special meetings and campaigns

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Not just politicians speaking in multiple languages, but political parties are taking the extra step this time to woo migrant voters with special programmes in different languages, roping in leaders from other States and even forming special teams and cells.

From IT professionals to traders to even construction workers, parties are reaching out to these voters in their own languages.

From luncheon meetings in restaurants to roadshows, different classes of people are being targeted through these campaigns. The Congress has brought in Sanjay Nirupam, former MP, to head these meetings. Mr. Nirupam said that he was also personally contacted by some traders and techie groups to come and address the migrant workers.

"I have been asked to interact with the migrant population here. I am meeting them with the Congress candidates. We met in restaurants and at other offices or residential buildings. I interacted with traders at Karnataka Hosiery and Garments Association (KHAGA) too," Mr. Nirupam said.

He has so far reached out to the migrant population from States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal, along with traders from Rajasthan. "As the migrant population has increased in Bengaluru, these interactions are necessary. We have talked about the security of migrant workers, how to ensure that local workers and migrant workers all get their jobs," he added.

The BJP, on the other hand, has a separate "different languages cell" to devise campaign programmes to approach the migrant, non-Kannada speaking voters. "We are holding public functions, small meetings, and street plays. There is also door-to-door campaigns and colony and apartment meetings," said Ravi Kumar, State general secretary, BJP.

When it came to roadshows in pockets where non-Kannada speaking voters are present, Mr. Kumar said that the responsibility was delegated to those party workers who can speak those languages.

In many parts of the city, it was reported that campaign announcements, which are usually done through megaphones, were also being done in Hindi, especially in East Bengaluru.

Resto-bars and pubs stand to witness business losses

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

With many dry days this week, resto-bars and pubs stand to witness business losses, as these places cannot even serve food on those days and will have to pull down their shutters. They would also not be allowed to provide home delivery or takeaway services on such days. There is a ban on serving liquor at events like weddings and other parties too on dry days.

The ban on the sale and the serving of liquor started on Monday evening and will be in place until the midnight of May 10. On counting day (May 13), which also happens to be a Saturday, these businesses will have to shut down again.

"This has become a norm in Bengaluru from the last elections. Before that, we were allowed to serve food, but in the recent past the Excise Department said that it did not have enough officials to monitor the activities and hence, it ordered the closure of all services," said Mukesh Tolani, Head of Bengaluru Chapter, National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).

He also said that with no liquor, food-centric establishments could have witnessed an increase in their businesses. With the restrictions, resto-bars might lose around 30-40% of the business they could have had on those days, reported other restaurateurs too.

The recent weekend was marked by a slight increase in demand for alcohol at MRP liquor stores, but as the supply had been tight, it was difficult to cater to the demands, merchants reported.

"There was quite some demand for liquor during the weekend, but this time, there is not much scope for anyone to stock up as the department has been very strict. The supply of alcohol to stores has only been tight to avoid such things," said Karunakar Hegde, pub owner and vice-president of the Federation of Wine Merchants' Association.

Congress, BJP workers clash at BTM Layout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A clash occurred between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress party at BTM Layout on Sunday over the alleged distribution of cash to woo voters, following which the police registered an assault case against the latter.

Based on a complaint by Sridhar Reddy, the police booked former Mayor B.N. Manjunath Reddy, and others.

The victim, Harinath Reddy, alleged that the Congress workers assaulted him during the campaign.

However, BTM Layout MLA Ramalinga Reddy alleged that Mr. Harinath Reddy, who was injured, was caught red-handed by the Congress workers distributing cash to people, leading to a clash. In the melee, while trying to escape, he fell down and sustained a fracture in the nose, he said.

Meanwhile, Tejasvi Surya, MP, went to the station and demanded strict action against the accused.

Elaborate security arrangements for polling day in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have made elaborate security arrangements for the upcoming Assembly election day scheduled on May 10.

Across 28 constituencies, a total of 1,907 sensitive booths and 6,009 general booths have been identified, among the total 7,916 booths.

Security arrangements will be supervised by the City Police Commissioner, along with Special Commissioner of Police, assisted by two Additional Commissioners of Police, two Joint Commissioners of Police, 24 DCPs, 67 ACPs, 258 inspectors, 881 sub inspectors, 1,020 ASIs , 9,971 PCs, 2,565 Home Guards, and 49 companies of reserve forces.

The police have conducted flag marches at 460 places at their respective divisions and put up 123 checks-posts, in and around the city..

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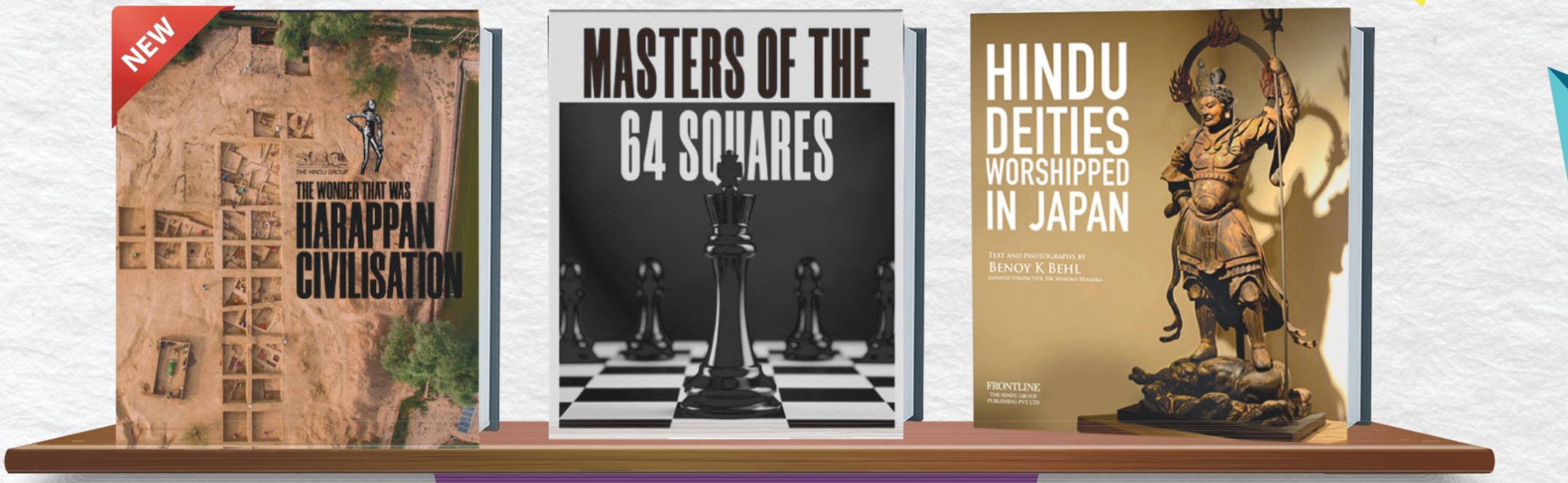
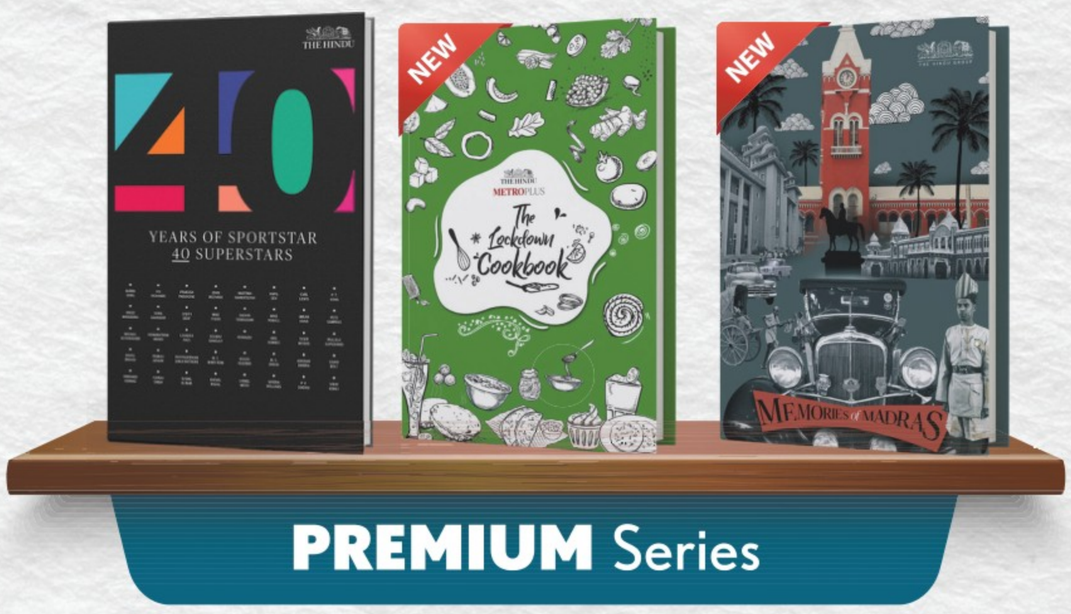


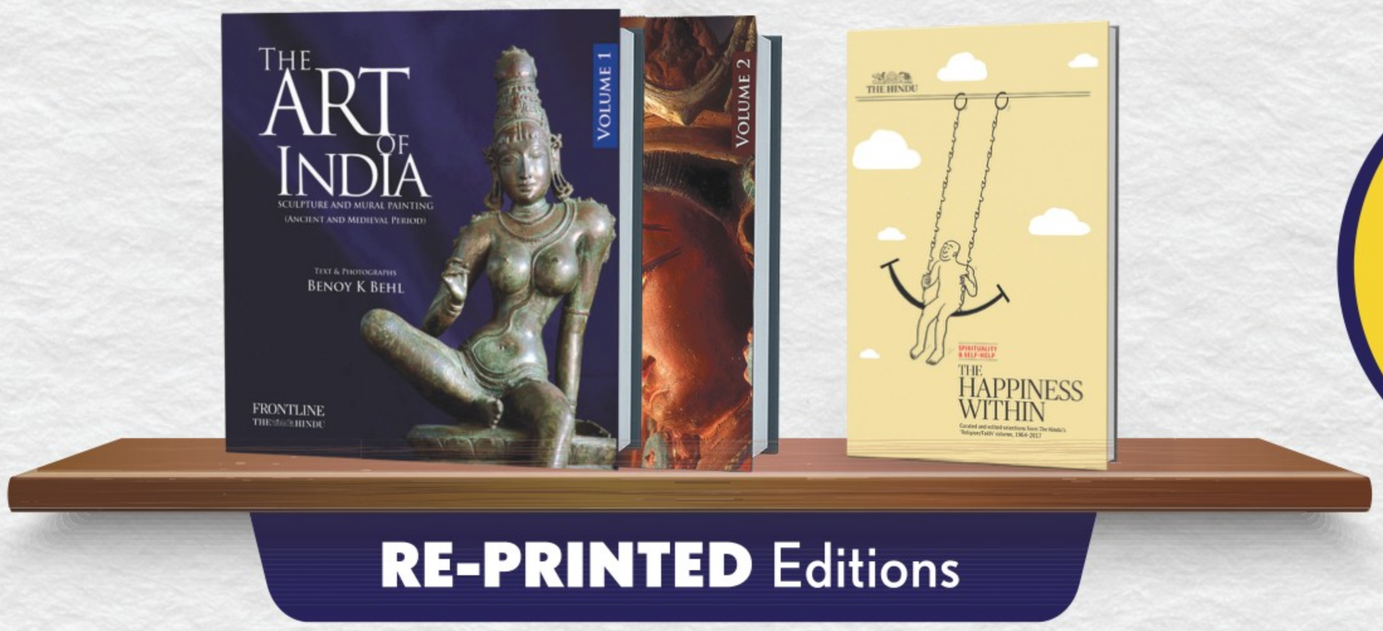
COFFEE TABLE Books

SHRINE Series



PREMIUM Series

KIDS Series



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INBRIEF

Goyal co-chairs India-Canada Ministerial trade dialogue

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal co-chaired the sixth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment with Canada's Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development Mary Ng, in Ottawa on Monday. Apart from a review of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations, the two Ministers also discussed trade ties as well as critical minerals for green transition efforts.

Nibav Home Lifts opens fourth manufacturing unit

Nibav Home Lifts has expanded operations in Chennai with the opening of its fourth manufacturing unit. It also announced plans to hire 4,500 employees across India and overseas by December. "It is our fourth manufacturing facility and will produce two types of home lifts," said Vimal R. Babu, CEO and founder, in an interaction. "We will produce 600 lifts per month in three shifts," he added. Nibav Home closed FY23 with a turnover of ₹400 crore.

Essar firm invests in tech to raise coal bed methane output

Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd. (EOGEPL) said it had invested an unspecified amount in Microbial eCBM technology to boost coal bed methane production. "This initiative is in line with EOGEPL's commitment to invest in R&D and improve operations," the company said. EOGEPL has collaborated with The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) and the ONGC Energy Centre (OEC) to establish the potential of the technology in its Raniganj-East Block.

Indices rise after bank stocks rebound from Friday's slide

Eleven of the 13 major sectoral indices advance, with high-weightage financials rising 1.5%; financial sector index recovers from Friday's 2.34% drop, its worst day in more than three months

Reuters
BENGALURU

Benchmark equity indices advanced 1% on Monday, aided by a recovery in financial stocks, strong earnings and improved sentiment following robust economic data from the U.S.

The Nifty 50 closed 1.08% higher at 18,264.40, while the S&P BSE Sensex rose 1.16% to 61,764.25. Both benchmarks posted their best single-day gains in more than a month.

Eleven of the 13 major sectoral indices advanced, with high weightage financials rising 1.5%.

The financials index recovered from a 2.34% drop on Friday, its worst day in more than three months, dragged by HDFC and HDFC Bank on concerns of foreign funds' outflows from their merged entity.

On Monday, IndusInd Bank rose almost 5% after having shed over 5% on Friday following the resignation of its chief risk officer. Jefferies said the exit should not warrant such a price correction and reiterated its "buy" rating.

Marico surged 7.5% after posting a 20% jump in March-quarter profit. One 97 Communication climbed 5% after reporting a narrower loss in the fourth quarter.

Surge follows slump

Equity indices climbed on strong earnings and robust economic data from the U.S.

- IndusInd Bank rose almost 5% after having shed over 5% on Friday following the resignation of its chief risk officer
- Marico surged 7.5% after posting a 20% jump in March-quarter profit
- One 97 Communication climbed 5% after reporting a narrower loss in the fourth quarter

April fuel demand drops 10% from March

Reuters

India's fuel consumption, a proxy for oil demand, was down about 0.3% year-on-year in April, but fell more than 10% from March this year, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Oil Ministry showed on Monday.

Consumption was down to about 18.41 million tonnes from 18.45 million a year earlier. Fuel sales fell 10.2% from March, when they jumped to a record high on robust economic activity in the world's third-biggest oil consumer. Petrol sales rose 2.9% to 2.9 million tonnes.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,764	1.16
US Dollar	81.78	0.00
Gold	60,600	-2.32
Brent oil	76.89	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1887.50	-32.80
Adani Ports	685.10	1.20
Apollo Hosp	4625.10	22.60
Asian Paints	3019.45	6.50
Axis Bank	878.45	13.15
Bajaj Auto	4549.25	86.15
Bajaj Finserv	1404.80	45.55
Bajaj Finance	6657.95	268.10
Bharti Airtel	793.75	6.45
BPCL	367.70	2.25
Britannia Ind	4598.40	-27.60
Cipla	933.30	8.50
Coal India	232.85	-4.55
Divis Lab	3286.30	-4.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4907.10	-35.40
Eicher Motors	3392.90	37.80
Grasim Ind	1778.35	25.85
HCL Tech	1075.75	20.20
HDFC	2735.60	33.30
HDFC Bank	1644.45	18.80
HDFC Life	549.55	9.85
Hero MotoCorp	2576.35	29.10
Hindalco	445.05	10.80
Hind Unilever	2516.30	15.55
ICICI Bank	937.90	10.95
IndusInd Bank	1126.35	53.05
Infosys	1265.60	6.50
ITC	431.45	2.70
JSW Steel	732.80	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1958.85	30.15
L&T	2365.40	-12.10
M&M	1231.80	20.60
Maruti Suzuki	9076.25	127.60
NestleIndia	21983.25	-36.60
NTPC	177.05	2.80
ONGC	165.00	4.70
PowerGrid Corp	244.75	3.70
Reliance Ind	2471.90	30.15
SBI Life	1182.35	8.65
State Bank	583.60	7.10
Sun Pharma	961.85	-8.60
TataConsumerProduct	788.90	12.65
Tata Motors	500.50	23.40
Tata Steel	109.55	0.90
TCS	3250.60	19.90
Tech Mahindra	1043.35	6.95
Titan	2751.25	18.35
UltraTech Cement	7735.45	106.65
UPL	715.40	0.55
Wipro	380.35	0.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.60	81.92
Euro	90.13	90.49
British Pound	103.32	103.73
Japanese Yen (100)	60.42	60.66
Chinese Yuan	11.80	11.84
Swiss Franc	91.86	92.23
Singapore Dollar	61.61	61.86
Canadian Dollar	61.13	61.40
Malaysian Ringitt	18.39	18.47
Australian Dollar	55.42	55.64

Source:Indian Bank

RBI gold reserves rose by 34 tonnes to 795 tonnes in FY23

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's gold reserves increased by 34.22 tonnes year-on-year to reach 794.64 tonne at March-end 2023, central bank data showed on Monday. The Reserve Bank held 760.42 metric tonnes (MT) of gold (including gold deposits of 11.08 MT) at the end of March 2022.

"As at end-March 2023, the Reserve Bank held 794.64 metric tonne of gold (including gold deposits of 56.32 metric tonne)," the central bank said in its Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2022-March 2023.

While 437.22 tonnes of gold are placed overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), 301.1 tonnes of gold are held domestically.

In value terms, the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from about 7.06% at September-end 2022 to about 7.81% at March-end 2023, as per the report.

Coal imports rose 30% in FY23 to 162 mt on demand

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's coal imports increased by 30% to 162.46 million tonnes (mt) in the 2022-23 financial year against 124.99 mt in the year-earlier period, according to a report. The import of coking coal rose 5.44% to 54.46 mt over 51.65 mt in FY22, mjunction said in a report.

In March alone, non-coking coal import stood at 13.88 mt against 12.61 mt a year earlier. Coking coal imports were 3.96 mt (4.76 mt). India is among the top five coal-producing countries in the world.

However, some parts of its coal requirement are met through imports as the country is also among the major consumers of the dry fuel.

For coking coal – a key raw material used in steel making – the country remains heavily dependent on imports.

"The persistently high demand for steam coal in India, coupled with the weakening of seaborne prices led to increased volumes during March. This trend is likely to continue in coming months in view of the above-normal average temperature expected this summer," mjunction CEO Vinaya Varma said.

Along with other varieties of coal like anthracite, pulverised coal injection (PCI coal), met coke and pet coke, total imports in FY23 were at 249.06 mt, up from 200.71 mt in FY22, a rise of more than 24%.

Indian Bank Q4 net rises 47% to ₹1,447 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Indian Bank said standalone net profit for the quarter ended March rose by 47% from the year-earlier period to ₹1,447 crore on account of a rise in interest income, reduction in provisions and improvement in asset quality.

"We exceeded all the parameters set by the Reserve Bank, said MD and CEO S.L. Jain.

"Our recovery was more than slippages and we recovered ₹8,500 crore."

"Going forward, our focus is on delivering value-added and suitable solutions through the acumen of empowered employees and smart use of technology," he added.

S.L. Jain

Interest earned rose 45% to ₹12,244 crore. Net interest income increased to ₹5,508 crore (₹4,255 crore). Net interest margin grew to 3.59% (2.87%).

Gross non-performing asset declined by 252 basis points (bps) to 5.95%, while net NPA slid 137 bps to 0.9%. Capital adequacy ratio stood at 16.49%.

The board recommended a dividend of ₹8.60 per share. Mr. Jain added that the bank may raise up to ₹7,000 crore in FY24.

Canara Bank Q4 net soars 90% on income

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank reported fourth-quarter net profit surged 90% to ₹3,175 crore, aided by higher income and lower provisions.

The bank's net interest income grew 23% year-on-year to ₹8,616 crore.

Asset quality

The gross non-performing assets ratio slid to 5.35% from 7.51% while the net non-performing asset (NNPA) ratio dropped to 1.73% from 2.65%, MD and CEO, K. Satyanarayana Raju, told the media.

The board of directors recommended a dividend of ₹12 per equity share (120%) for the year ended March 31.

Considering the lender's performance, the board has permitted the bank to pay 15 days' salary as Performance Linked Incentive to employees.

CG Power Q4 net doubles to ₹240 crore on volumes

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. (CG Power) standalone net profit for the quarter ended March 31 has more than doubled over the year-earlier period to ₹240 crore on account of volume growth, softening in input costs and procurement efficiencies.

Revenue from operations increased 27% to ₹1,788 crore, of which Power Systems accounted for ₹593 crore and Industrial Systems, the balance.

Free cash flow generated during the quarter was ₹263 crore. Order intake was higher by 8% at ₹2,073 crore and the unexecuted order book was higher by 22% at ₹4,319 crore.

During the year, the company redeemed non-convertible debentures of ₹200 crore.

It paid an interim dividend of ₹1.50 per share.

Happiest Minds' Q4 net profit rises 11% to ₹58 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IT firm Happiest Minds Technologies' fourth-quarter consolidated net profit grew 11% to ₹58 crore.

Revenue from operations climbed 26% from the year-earlier period to ₹378 crore.

For the full fiscal, the company reported a 28% growth in net profit to ₹231 crore compared with the previous year. Revenue from operations jumped 31% to ₹1,430 crore. The firm said it expected FY24 revenue to grow 25%. Attrition on a trailing 12-month basis stood at 19.8%.

CUMI Q4 doubles, final dividend at ₹2

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Abrasives and industrial ceramics maker Carborundum Universal Ltd. (CUMI) said consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March more than doubled from the year-earlier period to ₹149 crore as all its business segments performed 'well'.

Revenue from operations rose 38% to ₹1,200 crore, of which abrasives accounted for ₹525 crore, ceramics, ₹265 crore and electro minerals, ₹405 crore respectively, the Murugappa group firm said.

The financials included a gain of ₹25 crore representing reversal of liability recognised towards fair value changes of a financial instrument availed of by a step-down subsidiary, consequent to settlement of its bank borrowings. The board declared a final dividend of ₹2 per share.

The company incurred ₹294 crore in capital expenditure.

Cash and cash equivalents stood at ₹166 crore.

FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

THE HINDU GROUP

RULE OF TERROR

WORLD: SUDAN
Battle of the generals 50
MUSIC: KUMAR GANDHARVA
Memories of a legend 84
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BRUTAL STATE
The brazen murder of Atiq and Ashraf Ahmed while in police protection points to a state striding wilfully towards lawlessness

Now on stands

When a **"strongman"** emerges as leader, promising to rid societies of gangsters and mafias, then even brazen vigilantism gets public approval. In this issue, Frontline explores why gaining such legitimacy cannot be construed as gaining legality.

Conflict in Khartoum.
The two top generals in Sudan are at war with each other, unleashing what is threatening to become one of the worst humanitarian crises in history.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Campaign fever: A voter awareness campaign organised by the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka in Bengaluru on April 8.MURALI KUMAR. K

How micro-targeting campaigns affect the vulnerable Indian voter

The liberating and anti-establishment potential of the Internet are considered as a promise for the health of a liberal democracy. At the same time, it can have serious ramifications if this potential is used by demagogues to spread fake news and propaganda

Prashant Singh
Meghna Sharma

In the lead up to the Karnataka elections, there have been reports of citizens getting targetted phone calls and messages asking for their voter preference and party affiliation. This micro-campaigning has raised concerns about the breach of data of voters. In this article, dated February 17, 2020, Prashant Singh and Meghna Sharma talk about such privacy breaches and how it affects the informational autonomy of the voter.

Two years ago, there was a massive outcry against the hiring, by Indian political parties, of Cambridge Analytica, a data mining and analytics firm. The episode highlighted the need for regulating social media platforms by way of a comprehensive data protection law which takes issues such as political micro-targeting seriously. With the recently introduced draft of the data protection law, the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, the debate has again resurfaced. In the Internet age, any data protection law must be alive to the potential impact of social media companies in shaping public opinion. The current draft empowers the Central government to notify social media intermediaries as significant data fiduciaries if their user base crosses a certain threshold and whose actions are likely to have an impact on electoral democracy. This provision merits serious discussion to ensure that digital tools are used for enhancing democracy through citizen engagement, and not for harvesting personal data for voter targeting.

World of political advertising

In today's world, online presence, which ensures greater outreach, is a key source of competitive advantage. This realisation gave rise to strategic efforts by political parties to tap into the fragmented political discourse by catering to the individual. Earlier, the idea was to capture mass issues. But in the present day and age, the focus of the campaign is the individual. Political parties are increasingly employing data-driven approaches to target individual voters using tailor-made messages. Such profiling has raised huge concerns of data privacy for individuals and has become a burning issue for political debate. Therefore, the concerns related to regulation of the digital world are being debated in all jurisdictions which have experienced the impact of this technological advancement.

Although, each jurisdiction may have distinct factors influencing the final shape of the Internet governance model, the reasons for the initial debate are common to all, i.e. to arrest any negative externalities emerging out of the Internet. Therefore, any forward-thinking regulatory framework needs to have both supervisory mechanisms in place as well as effective law enforcement tools in its quiver.

This situation is not particularly characteristic of Indian politics. The United States and European countries are equally affected by the impact of this unregulated practice of micro-targeting. This practice has raised some serious concerns with regard to the kind of data that is being collected, the manner in which voters are being profiled, how transparent the process of profiling and targeting is, what the nature of functioning of organisations engaged in this business is, and how neutral globally present intermediaries such as Google and Facebook are. Recently, regulators in the U.S. and Brazil have held Cambridge Analytica guilty of employing illegal practices while harvesting personal data of millions of Facebook users.

Over the years, political advisory and advertising firms have devised sophisticated tools to gather voter data and made proper campaign products out of it. The politicians of today's age leave no stone unturned while canvassing for votes. The reason why this issue becomes important is that the passive users are just not aware of what they are being subjected to.

Unregulated zone

The informational autonomy of the voter is under serious threat because the entire business of collecting personal data continues to remain unregulated and is also proprietary in nature. It is extremely difficult to trace the methods used by such firms to scrutinise the personal life and intimate details of the individual. This threat becomes imminent in light of the rising number of political firms which are making most use of the right to freedom of speech and expression. The status of this right is near absolute with regard to political speech in most countries such as the U.S. It is but obvious that this can be misused by political entities. Profiling the potential voter has become a thriving industry. Therefore, there are extremely well-crafted techniques when it comes to electoral campaigning.

There is serious harm to the country's democratic nature resulting on account of loss of informational autonomy. The liberating and anti-establishment potential of the Internet are considered as a promise for the health of a liberal democracy. At the same time, it can have serious ramifications if this potential is used by demagogues to spread fake news and propaganda.

Although the digital revolution is being celebrated everywhere, the regulatory efforts regarding different spheres of its influence have only been reactionary. While innovators have continued to develop more advanced technologies, the regulators have never been able to catch up with it. There are infinite contours of this information age; hence, the scope of a data protection framework also needs to be sensitive towards the magnitude of a variety of data usage. The electoral process in India is becoming increasingly advanced in terms of use of data. It is highly likely that within a few years, Indian political parties may start using the same tactics as used by their U.S. counterparts in targeting individual voters. It remains to be seen as to how the privacy law responds to the implications of political micro-targeting.

Prashant Singh is a Delhi-based lawyer. Meghna Sharma works as Programme Officer, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On May 7, in the first coronation in the United Kingdom in 70 years, Charles III was crowned King. A quiz on the rulers of Great Britain

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
This king changed his family's official name to Windsor, replacing the historic name of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He was the first monarch to broadcast to the Empire at Christmas. Who is he?

QUESTION 2
To her critics, this queen who ruled for five years is known by the name of a popular cocktail. An Archbishop who was held responsible by her for the annulment of her parents' marriage and her illegitimacy was burned at the stake. Who is she?

QUESTION 3
Queen Anne was succeeded by George I in 1714 even though there were more than 50 other claimants to the throne then. Why were all the 50-odd claimants rejected?

QUESTION 4
This UNESCO site was built as a demonstration of power by William the Conqueror. It also tended to be the site of execution of traitors to the Crown. Three queens were executed there. Which famous site is this?

QUESTION 5
He was the first king of Great Britain. It was during his reign that Guy Fawkes and his fellow Catholic conspirators attempted to blow up Parliament and assassinate him. Guy Fawkes Day commemorates the failure of this plot. Who was this king?

QUESTION 6
He was one of the most cultured monarchs. More than 60,000 of his books were donated later to the British Museum. He commissioned the Gold State Coach which is used by the British royal family. He died a deranged man. Who is he?

Visual question:
He was immortalised by Shakespeare and was known as a brilliant general. Which king is this, who is seen as a symbol of English nationalism?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Some TV producers took advantage of the social proof phenomenon to introduce this to make their shows seem funnier. **Ans: Canned laughter**
2. Researchers have argued that this phenomenon caused people to participate in some of history's worst genocides. **Ans: Peer pressure**
3. Laws need to be specific. When they're vague, they can have a _____ _____. **Ans: Chilling effect**
4. These people hav been known to use communal reinforcement to ensure members stay dedicated to their brutal tasks and not leave in fear. **Ans: Terrorists**
5. Many 'pump and dump' investment schemes involving cryptocurrencies played on this feeling people have, that they might be missing an important opportunity. **Ans: FOMO**
Visual: Identify these two individuals. **Ans: Hannah Arendt (right) reported on the trial of Nazi official Adolf Eichmann (left) for war crimes, coining the term "banality of evil" to describe how even ordinary people can be capable of great evil in the right circumstances**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. M. Varadarajulu, 13, Chakkarai Chatty Street, Sowcarpet, Madras wants to know the difference between 'job' and 'work'."

" 'Work' is a general term. It can refer to any kind of activity physical or mental and is not a countable noun. That is, you don't say 'I have a work to do!'. You say 'I have some work to do'. You never say "I have some works to do'. 'Work functions in the way words like 'news', 'advice', 'business' do.

I have some business here.
I have a piece of business with you.
I gave him a piece of advice.
I have a piece of work to do.

'Works' has some special meanings. The following are some: (a) the product of the intellect or imagination'.

I have the complete works of Kalidasa.

(b) 'the moving parts of a machine'.

Children are curious to see the works of a clock.

(c) 'buildings where industrial or manufacturing processes are carried out'. Ironworks, brickworks, gasworks. Though the form is plural, it is often treated as a singular.

There was an ironworks here some years ago.

'Job' has several meanings. 'Job' refers to any specific kind of work for which generally payment is made. When you don't have a job, you say you are out of work.

It is difficult to get a job these days.

'Job' can refer to any piece of work. I don't have any regular employment, I do some odd jobs. 'I do some odd jobs' means 'I do bits of work not connected with one another'. 'Job-work' is work for which you are paid by the hour. It also means 'commercial printing of orders as for letterheads, circulars, booklets, etc.'"

"Mr. M. Veeramani, Government Higher Secondary School, Miao, Tirap District, Arunachal Pradesh, wants to know whether the following sentence is correct: "Mr. J. R. Jayewardene said here today that he will forward a detailed draft to India"

"It is not correct. 'Will' must be changed to 'would'. The general rule is that the tense in the subordinate clause should be the same as that in the main clause.

He says that she will come. He said that she would come.

He says that he is hungry. He said that he was angry.

He says that he has done it. He said that he had done it."

"Ms Kajal Saxena, Kakinada, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'have one's cake and eat it'."

"The correct idiom is 'cannot have one's cake and eat it' or 'cannot eat one's cake and have it'. It means that you cannot enjoy 'both alternatives'. When you eat the cake, you cannot expect to retain it. You can't eat it and also keep it. You cannot spend your money and yet keep it. You cannot eat the cake and have it.

She wants to go to America but doesn't want to leave her parents in Madras. She can't eat the cake and have it."

Published in The Hindu on December 12, 1987

Word of the day

Dolorous:
showing sorrow

Synonyms: tearful, lachrymose, weeping

Usage: *Can you talk about something a little less dolorous?*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/dolorouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɒlərəs/, /ˈdoʊlərəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

CCB cracks 10 NDPS cases, arrests 19 peddlers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The anti-narcotics wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), in a special drive against drug peddlers, busted a racket and arrested a gang of seven people from Kerala who were using online delivery apps to supply drugs.

The accused, according to the CCB officials, were operating from a rented house in Ashoknagar and would pack the drugs in gift boxes to deliver to their customers and receive the cash in the same packages in return.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) S.D. Sharanappa said that seven of the accused are among 19 peddlers arrested in and around the city, in a month-long operation against drugs.

Owing to police vigil, peddlers have been using different methods to smuggle and supply drugs.

In another incident, the CCB officials arrested an executive with an insurance company for allegedly peddling drugs. He would store hashish oil in a custom-made compartment in the boot of his car to avoid undue attention, according to the police.

In a similar case, the officials arrested two food delivery executives for allegedly peddling drugs.

As many as 10 peddlers among the 19 arrested are from Kerala, while the others include two from Nigeria, one from the Ivory Coast, one each from West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, the police said.

Among the seized drugs , the officials recovered 6 kilos of hashish oil, 51.8 kilos of marijuana, 140 grams of MDMA crystals, 236 pills of Ecstasy, 34 LSD strips, and 23 grams of cocaine total worth ₹7.06 crore.

72-year-old pedestrian dies of injuries after being knocked down by motorcycle in Kengeri

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 72-year-old pedestrian died of injuries in the hospital after he was knocked down by a motorcycle in Kengeri on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Muniyappa. According to the police, he was walking on the road, when a motorcycle knocked him down. Mr. Muniyappa sustained severe injuries and passers-by rushed him to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday morning. The Kengeri traffic police have registered a case.

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- MGNREGA Job Card
- Smart card issued under MOL&E
- Bank/ Post Office Passbook with photograph
- Indian Passport
- Health Insurance Smart Card of Ministry of Labour
- Pension document with photo
- PAN Card
- Official Identity Card of MLA, MP
- Identity Card of Government, Public Companies
- Social Justice Department Identity Card for Persons with Disabilities

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7 AM - 6 PM
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Electorates Please Note!

- While going for voting, please carry your ID card without fail.
- Press 'blue' button by the side of candidate/party of your choice in the electronic voting machine.
- "VVPAT" machine attached to EVM ensures you to see on a printed slip whom you voted for.
- All necessary help will be provided for differently abled electorates at the polling station.
- Visually impaired and differently abled voters can cast votes with assistance of their companion.
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- Voting is the duty of a responsible citizen.

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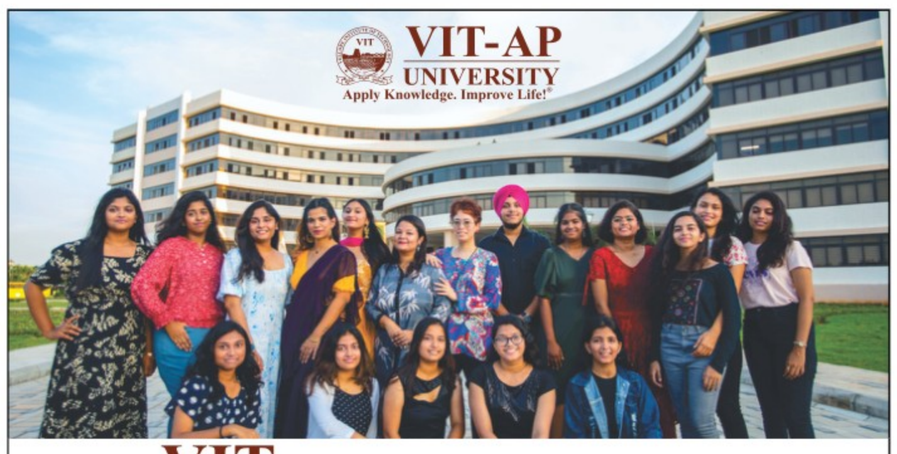

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AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER / YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

(₹ in Crore)

Global Business ₹20,41,764 Cr. Up by 11.72%
Net Interest Income ₹8,617 Cr. Up by 23.01%
Operating Profit ₹27,715 Cr. Up by 20.03%
Net Profit ₹10,604 Cr. Up by 86.76%
Gross Advances 16.41% Y-o-Y
CRAR 16.68% Up by 178 bps
Return on Equity 19.49% Up by 667 bps
PCR 87.31% Up by 314 bps
Gross NPA 5.35% Down by 216 bps
Net NPA 1.73% Down by 92 bps

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net)	28684.97	103186.98	22323.11	85907.15	31774.04	111209.76	24518.42	94256.89
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4157.29	14173.00	2493.26	10316.49	4332.40	14873.61	2838.55	10499.91
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4157.29	14173.00	2493.26	8961.59	4332.40	14873.61	2838.55	9145.01
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3174.74	10603.76	1666.22	5678.42	3336.51	11254.75	1918.80	6124.83
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1814.13	1814.13	1814.13	1814.13	1814.13	1814.13	1814.13	1814.13
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	64318.01	64318.01	55790.95	55790.95	68750.39	68750.39	59640.96	59640.96
8.	Securities Premium Account	13919.01	13919.01	13919.01	13919.01	13983.84	13983.84	13983.84	13983.84
9.	Net worth	60195.34	60195.34	48692.46	48692.46	64556.51	64556.51	52552.11	52552.11
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	30736.10	30736.10	26686.10	26686.10				
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-				
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.51	0.51	0.55	0.55				
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (For continuing and discontinued operations)								
	1. Basic:	17.50	58.45	9.18	32.49	18.39	62.04	10.58	35.04
	2. Diluted:	17.50	58.45	9.18	32.49	18.39	62.04	10.58	35.04
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Note:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (BSE: www.bseindia.com and NSE: www.nseindia.com) and Bank's website (www.canarabank.com)
2. Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to the Bank.
3. The Board of Directors recommended a dividend of Rs. 12.00 per equity share (120%) of face value of Rs. 10 each at their meeting held on 08/05/2023 subject to approval of shareholders in Annual General Meeting.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 08.05.2023

HARDEEP SINGH AHLUWALIA Executive Director
ASHOK CHANDRA Executive Director
BRIJ MOHAN SHARMA Executive Director
DEBASHISH MUKHERJEE Executive Director
K SATYANARAYANA RAJU MD & CEO

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IN LOVING MEMORY

PROF. M.S.SRINIVASAN
5th May, 2023 (97 years)

An educationist of excellence and formerly Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Education & Culture, Professor at IIM Bangalore and Chairman of BMS Engineering College – Bangalore.

Forever in our heart
Wife Nirmala Srinivasan
Ashok, Shanthi, Meenakshi and the entire family.

TOPPERS SPEAK

Bhoomika aspires to become an astronaut

Sangeetha Kestur
BENGALURU

Bhoomika R. Pai, student of New Mecaulay English High School, Hosur Main Road, who scored 625 out of 625 marks, aspires to be an astronaut.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, she said, "I was expecting around 95% and I am surprised and happy with the result. I am planning take Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Computer Science course in PU and I want to become an astronaut in the future."

She firmly believed that studying what is taught in school everyday and improvising on the topics taught, solving model question papers, and asking doubts are the ways to good grades.

Farmer's grandson fulfils his dream

Sangeetha Kestur
BENGALURU

Yashas Gowda N., who was among the four top scorers in the State, hails from Majjige Hosahalli village of Chickballapur taluk. His father Narayan Swamy is a farmer and insurance agent, while mother Bhagyamma is a homemaker.

Mr. Yashas' grandfather, who was a farmer, wished to see him top the State in the Class X exam. Mr. Yashas wants to pursue Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Biology (PCMB) in PU and plans to crack the NEET and JEE. His secret to becoming the State topper is to surround himself in a positive environment with people, who motivated and encouraged him to do better.

Personal tragedy didn't stop this Saundatti girl

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Anupama Hireholi lost her father a year ago, but that did not stop her from earning the top rank in the SSLC exam in Karnataka. She comes from a poor family in a village in Belagavi district.

She is a student of Sri Kumareshwar English Medium High School in Saundatti, Belagavi district. She is one of four students in Karnataka, to get 625/625 marks in the SSLC exams.

Ms. Anupama wants to pursue science and join an IIT. "If conditions permit, I would like to appear for the UPSC civil services examination," she said.

This Vijayapura topper wants to join IIT

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Bheemanagoud Hanumanthgoud Biradarpatil, a student of Oxford English medium high school in Nagarabetta village near Muddebihal in Vijayapura district who stood first in the State by getting 625 out of 625 marks, dreams of becoming a computer engineer by joining IIT.

His parents are farmers in Budni village in Mudhol taluk in Bagalkot.

Results dip by 1.24% points; officials say difficulty level of question papers was higher

Hence, it is inferred that the performance of students in this year's examination has improved by 12.09% when compared to 2019-20, says KSEAB chairman

Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board chairman Ramachandra R. and other officials at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Class X exam results, announced on Monday, showed a dip in the results compared to last year by 1.24 percentage points.

This has been attributed to an increase in the number of questions with higher difficulty level. The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has brought back the question paper pattern from the pre-pandemic days.

Dip in perfect scores

While the pass percentage was 83.89% this year, it was 85.13% last year. The number of people who got perfect scores also dipped from 145 last year to only four this year.

Ramachandran R., chairman of the board, said on Monday, "The difficulty level of the question papers during 2019-20 and 2021-22 was 20% and 10% respectively. The same for 2022-23 is 20% again. Hence, it is inferred that the performance of students in this year's examination has improved by 12.09% when compared to 2019-20."

The board continues to give grace marks up to 10% for three subjects and around 59,246 students were benefited. When looking at the medium-wise pass percentage, English-medium students dominate the results with 92.88%, followed by 87.65% Kannada medium, 86.24% Marathi medium, 80.40% Telugu, 79.55% Hindi, and 76.09% Urdu medium.

Girls better than boys

Continuing the trend, girls did better than boys this year too. Of the 4,09,134 girls who appeared for the exams, 3,59,511 cleared them.

Out of 4,25,968 boys who appeared for the examination, 3,41,108 cleared them. The pass percentage of girls is 87.87 and for boys it is 80.08%.

Rural students outperformed their urban counterparts with the overall pass percentage of 87.

As many as 79.62% urban students managed to pass. Unaided private schools recorded an overall pass percentage of 90.89, whereas government schools came out with 86.74% and aided schools scored 85.64%.

No government school is in the list of 0% results this year, whereas 11 aided and 23 unaided schools recorded 0%.

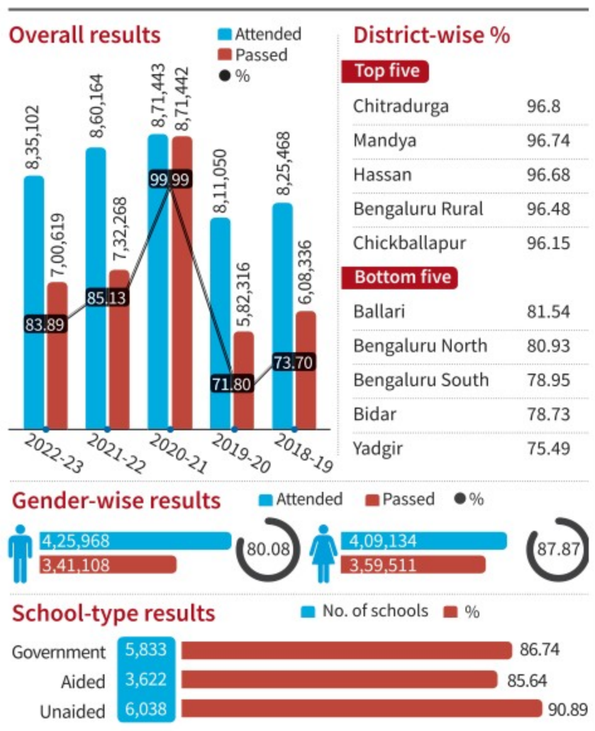
In the list of 100% results, there are 1,824 private unaided schools and 1,517 government, and 482 aided schools.

Supplementary exam

The KSEAB will conduct the supplementary exam for failed students in June. Students can register before May 15. The board will announce the exam schedule soon.

May 14 is the last date for applying for a copy of the answer scripts. Students can apply for revaluation and re-totaling from May 15 to 21.

Fact sheet



67.53% for BBMP schools

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

High schools, which come under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), have secured 67.53% result in the Class X exam. Among 33 high schools in the BBMP limits, a total of 2,270 students appeared for the examination this year and 1,533 students have passed.

Tushar Giri Nath, Commissioner of BBMP, congratulated the students who passed.

'Download admission ticket for CET-2023'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) stated on Monday that candidates eligible to appear for CET-2023, scheduled to be held on May 20 and 21, can download the admission ticket and instructions by selecting the appropriate link on the KEA website http://kea.kar.nic.in.

Ramya S., Executive Director of KEA, has informed candidates to verify the details printed on the admission ticket and appear for the CET-2023 examination in the centre specified on the admission ticket.

She has also instructed students to adhere mandatorily to the mentioned guidelines/procedures therein.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (May 9, Tuesday), the following explainer is available:

- Misleading food ads and the regulations to curtail them **bit.ly/misleadingfoodads**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Subject Matter	Tender Due date	Method of Tender
2023-24/ TNPL/INS/ RENEWAL/ 02	Fixing of Insurer(s) for Renewal of various insurance policies covering TNPL properties, Employees, Interests, Liabilities etc., which are due for Renewal on 27.05.2023. Quotes are invited from General Insurance Companies / Authorised Agents / Brokers - Licenced by IRDAI	On or before 18.05.2023 before 11.00 AM	Two bid System

Terms & conditions and sum insured details are available in the tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in
DIPR/2470/Tender/2023 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)
GEM Bid No.GEM/2023/B/3418491 Dated : 05.05.2023

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division/Chennai - 600003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GEM portal "www.gem.gov.in". The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing Mechanised Cleaning work at Katpadi Railway Station & Colony for 730 days in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.gem.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description	Location	Value ₹	Period of completion
Custom Bid for Services - Mechanised Cleaning of Katpadi Railway Station & Colony for a period of 730 days (cost inclusive of 18 percentage GST)	Katpadi Railway Station & Colony (KPD)	₹ 2,89,42,753/-	730 days

Tender closing date and time : 26.05.2023 @ 15:00 Hrs.
Tender opening date and time : 26.05.2023 @ 15:30 Hrs.
Details of value of tender, tender condition are given in e-portal www.gem.gov.in
For details bid submission please refer to web portal www.gem.gov.in
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

HUBLI-DHARWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
No.HDMC/SWM/74/2023-24 Hubballi, Date: 08-05-2023

Term Tender Notification (Through e-procurement only)

Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, invites tender for Processing and Disposal of Legacy Waste in survey No. 143 and 146 of Kempakere in Hubli city in Hubli-Dharwad City Corporation as per Central Pollution Control Board guidelines and Processing and Disposal of Legacy waste in survey No. 71, 72, 73 and 74 in new Yallapura at Dharwad city in Hubli-Dharwad City Corporation as per Central Pollution Control Board guidelines As per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 and as per the prescribed Performa of Standard Tender Documents (KW-IV) in Two Cover System through electronic tendering system (e-tender) from eligible Contractors/Firms/Companies.

The detailed Tender Document containing the all terms and conditions may be obtained from Date: 09/05/2023 in e-Procurement Portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in, for further details contact following address during office hours:

Executive Engineer (SWM) ,Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation Hubballi-580020, **Phone: 0836-2213822, Fax No:- 0836-2213898, E mail Id –** hdmcswm2021@gmail.com

Sl. No	Indent No	Name of Work
1	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT149991	Processing and Disposal of Legacy Waste in survey No. 143 and 146 of Kempakere in Hubli city in Hubli-Dharwad City Corporation as per Central Pollution Control Board guidelines
2	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT149992	Processing and Disposal of Legacy Waste in survey No. 71, 72, 73 and 74 in new yallapura at Dharwad city in Hubli-Dharwad City Corporation as per Central Pollution Control Board guidelines

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING PROCESS

Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications	22-05-2023. 11:30 AM On or Before
Pre Bid Meeting date & Time	24-05-2023. 11:00 AM Onwords
Last Date & Time For Receipt of tenders	09-06-2023 Time : 05.00 PM Onwords
Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	12-06-2023. Time : 05-.01 AM Onwords
Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	19-06-2023 . Time : 11.00 AM Onwords or Other Convenient Day

DIPR/DWD/05/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY
Sd/- Executive Engineer (SWM)
Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, Hubballi

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

Respectful pranams at the lotus feet of
Our beloved Guru Pujyashri Mathioli Saraswathy
09.05.2023

Her Holiness
Pujyashri Mathioli
R. Saraswathy

Nandalala Seva Samithi Trust
Sri Nandalala Religious Trust
Nandalala Medical Foundation
Yogasaras Educational Academy

You are alway with us
and we are always guided by your divine light.
அன்றும், இன்றும், என்றும் எங்கள் உள்ளங்களில்
நிரந்தரமாக வாழும் தெய்வம்
-Devotees

DEATH

SRI E.V.VARADACHARI (83 years) attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on May 4, 2023. Velachery, Chennai. 8056086371

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY
Smt.T.SULOCHANA
W/o. (Late) Sri. R.S.Thiagaraja Iyer, Teacher and Mirasdar
D.O.B. 6.6.26 | D.O.D. 9.5.22

FOND REMEMBRANCE ON HER ANNIVERSARY
R.S.T. FAMILY
Ranganathapuram, Thirukkattuppalli, Thanjavur Dt.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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House collapses, lake breaches after short spell of rain in city

Showers also caused traffic jams in many parts, especially in the Central Business District and key arterial roads

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A short spell of heavy rain in parts of Bengaluru on Monday, yet again exposed the chinks in the civic infrastructure while also causing damage to property.

An empty house in Veerabhadranagar in South Bengaluru collapsed, leading to three cars being damaged, but no casualties were reported.

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials, the house collapsed towards the compound and damaged the cars parked near it.

Praveen Kumar, a resident, said, "The incident occurred around 5 p.m. after heavy rain. Three years ago, a similar incident had happened in the same area."

"The incident happened owing to the overflowing of water towards this area, since there is no proper drainage system. We had complained to the BBMP several times regarding this. However, no action was taken," he added.

The BBMP officials said that they are investigating the matter.

A videograb shows a car submerged at Hoskerehalli after rain in Bengaluru on Monday.

Water enters house

According to the BBMP control room, water entered three houses in Hosakerehalli. Officials in BBMP said that the incident occurred because the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) was working on a drainage system in the area.

A BBMP official said since the work was going on, the drain overflowed after the rain and water entered the house.

Waterlogging was reported in various stretches of the city. According to residents from Basavanagudi, several two-wheelers and autos were stuck on flooded R.V. Road in front of Vijaya College.

Prasanth, a resident, said, "It was only 15 minutes of rain, but the whole stretch was flooded. This only exposes the civic authorities' poor work on the road and drainage system of the city."

Waterlogging on roads was also reported in Bellandur, Madiwala, Hosur Road, Silk Board junction, Bannerghatta Road, Koramangala, B.T.M. Layout, Shivajinagar, Shantinagar, Outer Ring Road, Uttarahalli, and the Central Business District area.

Trees were uprooted in Basavanagudi, Shantinagar, and Uttarahalli.

The rain caused traffic jams in many parts, especially in the CBD and key arterial roads. According to the Bengaluru traffic police, traffic snarls were reported on Outer Ring Road, Bannerghatta Road, Hosur Road, Bellandur, HSR Layout, Shanthinagar, Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, Lakkasandra, and Kanakapura Road.

'Cyclonic storm Mocha will not impact polling day'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cyclonic storm Mocha, which will intensify into a depression on May 9, is unlikely to have any impact on polling day May 10.

However, the India Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rainfall activity for South-interior Karnataka for the next four days.

"The cyclone has not yet formed. If it is formed, it will be named as Mocha. Today (May 8) it is only in the low-pressure area, and tomorrow we are expecting it to become a depression. Afterwards, it is moving towards the north direction mainly, maintaining its direction towards northwards, and it's going to intensify into a cyclonic storm," said A. Prasad, scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru.

He added that the cyclonic storm will have an impact only when it crosses North Tamil Nadu or the South Andhra Pradesh coast.

"We are closely monitoring its movement. Right now, it is in a low-pressure area. So tomorrow, it is likely to become depression and on May 10, it will become deep depression and it will move northwards only," he added.

Mr. Prasad said the department in its forecast for the next five days has indicated that there will be fairly widespread rainfall activity for South-Interior Karnataka.

"We have given fairly widespread rainfall activity for South-interior Karnataka for the next four-five days, so the activity is going to be more for South-interior Karnataka rather than North-interior Karnataka. However, today we have widespread thunderstorm activity because of intense summer heating, instability, and moisture impression and triggering mechanism. Even in Bengaluru, we have thunderstorm activity, but it is not connected with the cyclonic system," Mr. Prasad said.

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THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR Young World THE HINDU

Last rites of Balarama performed

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The last rites of Dasara elephant Balarama were performed at the Bhimanakatte elephant camp on Monday complete with traditional rituals besides a gun salute. The 67-year-old gentle giant who carried the golden howdah 13 consecutive times in the Mysuru Dasara from 1999 to 2011, had died on Sunday after battling tuberculosis.

The carcass was garlanded and flower petals showered on it and the last respects were paid by senior Forest Department staff including Chief Conservator of Forest of Mysuru Circle Malathi Priya, Director of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve C. Harshakumar, Deputy Conservators of Forest P.A. Seema, Sourabh Kumar, Sharana Basappa and other staff.

Earlier, the priest performed rituals and chanted hymns.

Five arrested for taking away valuables

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chikkamagaluru police, on Monday, arrested five people in connection with the robbery reported in Ajjampura taluk and recovered gold ornaments worth over ₹9 lakh, a car, bikes and lethal weapons from them.

A group of 10 to 15 people robbed former MLA S.M. Nagaraju at Shiraganahalli in Ajjampura police station limits on Saturday night of valuables worth over ₹44 lakh. They had taken away gold ornaments of 963 gm and ₹61,000.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 09	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 22:26	SET 08:55
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 10	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 23:26	SET 09:58
THURSDAY, MAY. 11	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:37
RISE 00:00	SET 11:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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#VoteKarnataka
THE HINDU

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name:Smt. Daya S Naik,
e -mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in,
Mobile No:**9449842910**
Landline No. (Office): 080-2594 3678/25943663

Address of the Branch:
No.11/90, III Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theatre
Opp. Trust Well Hospital
J C Road, Bengaluru -560 002
Tel:080-2594 3678/ 2594 3663
e-mail Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

"APPENDIX- IV-A"
[See proviso to Rule 6(2) & Rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movables and Immovables Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) and Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/guarantors, that the below described movable/immovable properties hypothecated/mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on **15.06.2023** for recovery of **Rs.18,07,11,316/-** (Rupees Eighteen Crore Seven Lakh Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Only) as on 03.05.2023 and further interest at contractual rate from 04.05.2023 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc, due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor from **M/s Vinayaka Industries** and the Guarantors: **Sri.T.R.Supreeth** S/o T.S.Ravikumar and **Smt.T.R.Kalpana** W/o T.S.Ravikumar.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES
SCHEDULE 'A' : MOVABLE ASSETS (PLANT AND MACHINERY)

Sl.No	DESCRIPTION
1	One no. Compressor with Air tank, Drier including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete
2	Aspirator with motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
3	Destoner with motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
4	Vibro Sheller with motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
5	Tray Separator with motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
6	Whitener units with motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
7	Silk Master with water jet as well motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
8	Color sorting machine, AC unit including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
9	Grader with motor drive including necessary accessories as well pipeline etc. complete including Elevator & Hopper
10.	Plant Electrical Control Panel
11	Centrifugal fans, Blowers, Cyclone Separators, 3 nos. platform scale and other misc. items in the plant
12	Steam Boiler, Husk feeding Hopper & Blower, Boiler Chimney, fly ash collector, necessary pipelines for water and steam including water softening plant
13	Paddy drier unit of Stainless steel with necessary elevators, drive motors, Blowers, Chute etc. complete including applicable support structure, electrical wiring and drives.
14	8 nos. paddy cooking units of stainless steel including Hoppers & applicable support structure, steam as well water piping's, paddy bunkers etc
15.	Paddy cleaner unit with accessories and electrical including appropriate support structure

RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 1.57 Crore **EMD: Rs. 15.70 Lakh**

SCHEDULE-B
IMMOVABLE ASSETS(LAND & BUILDING)

1. All the piece and parcel of industrial part bearing Plot No.5A, 5B, 5E2 and 5F1 of Bangarpet Industrial Area carved out of Sy No.124 and 125, of Dasarhosahalli Village, Robertson Pet Hobli, Bangarpet Tq. Kolar District Admeasuring East by: 170.56 feet, West by: 170.56 feet, North by: 252.56 feet and South by: 252.56 feet, totally measuring 43,076 and half sq.feet.
2. All that piece and parcel of Industrial part of plot bearing Plot No.5A, 5B, 5E2 and 5 F1 of Bangarpet Industrial Area carved out of Survey No.124 and 125, of Dasarhosahalli Village, Robertson Pet Hobli, Bangarpet Tq. Kolar District Admeasuring East by: 212.76 feet, West by 221.44 feet, North by: 219.76 feet, South by: 220.00 feet totally measuring 47,736 sq. feet.
   Item No.1 & 2 totally measuring 90,812 and half sq. feet, along with an AC sheet Industrial shed, Godown, RCC roofed office building comprising ground and first floor, staff quarters with all electrical installations along with 125 KV power, Compressor, Motor bearing 20 HP power, numbered as HT 77 with all structures thereon with water facilities and the same is bounded on: East by : Plot No. 5C and 5F2 West by : KIADB Land (PH) and Plot No. 5E1, North by: 1st Cross Road, South by: Property of H.Syed Vasiulla.

RESERVE PRICE: Rs.7.06 Crore **EMD: Rs. 70.60 Lakh**

DETAILS OF E-AUCTION-1 SALE OF SCHEDULE A & B PROPERTIES AS SINGLE LOT (TENDER NO. SBI/SARB/871)

E-auction-1 Property in Schedule A & B both
Tender No: SBI/SARB/871

Description of properties	**Schedule A - Movable & Schedule B – Immovable property**
Reserve Price	**Rs. 8,63,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Crore Sixty Three Lakh Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10% of the Reserve Price i.e.**Rs.86,30,000/-** (Rupees Eighty Six Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)
Bid increment Amount	**In multiples of Rs.6,00,000/-(Rupees Six Lakh Only)**
Date & Time of e–Auction-1 of movable and immovable property as single lot	**Date: 15.06.2023** **Time: 60 Minutes** : From 11.30 A.M to 12.30 P.M, with unlimited extension of five minutes for each bid, if the bid continues, till the sale is concluded.

***Note:** In Case the **E-auction-1** to be held on **15.06.2023** between **11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M** does not materialize for want of bidders etc., schedule A property and schedule B property shall be sold separately by **E-auction-2& E-auction-3** respectively on **15.06.2023 from 1:30 P.M to 2:30 P.M and 2:30 P.M.** to **3:30 P.M.** respectively. It is further noted that E-auction-3 shall be conducted only if E-auction-2 is successful. In case of failure of E-auction-2, E-auction–3 shall be considered 'cancelled' and the EMD deposited for E-auction-1 shall be refunded to the bidder and the bidder shall not have any claim to the property under E-auction-1.*

DETAILS OF E-AUCTION 2&3 SALE OF SCHEDULE A & B PROPERTIES AS SEPARATE LOTS

E-auction-2 - Property in Schedule A only
Tender No: SBI/SARB/872

Description of properties	**Schedule A - Movable property- Plant and Machinery**
Reserve Price	**Rs. 1,57,00,000/-** (Rupees One Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Only) below which the property will not be sold.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10% of the Reserve Price i.e. **Rs.15,70,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Seventy Thousand Only)
Bid increment Amount	**In multiples of Rs. 1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only)
Date & Time of e–Auction-2	**Date: 15.06.2023** Time: 60 Minutes From 1:30 P.M to 2:30 P.M.with unlimited extension of five minutes for each bid, if bidding continues, till the sale is concluded.

E-auction-3 Property in Schedule B only
Tender No: SBI/SARB/874

Description of properties	**Schedule B - Immovable property**
Reserve Price	**Rs.7,06,00,000/-** (Rupees Seven Crore Six Lakh Only) below which the properties will not be sold.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10% of the Reserve Price i.e. **Rs.70,60,000/-** (Rupees Seventy Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)
Bid increment Amount	**In multiples of Rs.5,00,000/-** (Rupees Five Lakh Only)
Date & Time of e–Auction-3	**Date: 15.06.2023** Time: 60 Minutes From 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM with unlimited extension of five minutes for each bid, if bidding continues, till the sale is concluded.

The E-auction for sale of Schedule A and Schedule B properties as a Single Lot will be conducted on 15.06.2023 between 1.30 P M to 3.30 P M. In the event of Schedule A and Schedule B property is not sold in the said auction as single lot, then above said Schedule A and Schedule B properties will be sold in separate lots on the same day i.e. 15.06.2023 between 1.30 PM to 2.30 PM and between 2.30 PM to 3.30 PM respectively. However in the auction of separate lots, only if Schedule A property is sold, the auction of Schedule B property will be confirmed. If Schedule A property is not sold, then the auction conducted for Schedule B will be cancelled.

The Authorised Officer shall have absolute discretion to cancel the e-auction at any point of time, without assigning any reason.
The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, No: 11/90, III Floor, J C Road (Opp;- Trust Well Hospital) Bangalore-560 002. During office hours, Phone No. 080- 25943663, 25943678 or Bank's approved Resolution Agent, Sri Devi Resolutions Pvt Ltd, Bangalore Representative: Sri.Jagadeesh Cell No.9902401486.
To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of E-auction sale and for E-auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration etc. please refer to the link provided in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.

Date: 05.05.2023
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager,
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru.

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High-decibel public campaigning comes to an end

Roadshows and rallies organised by political parties in several parts amidst rain; candidates can do door-to-door campaigning today, a day ahead of polling in the Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With high-decibel public campaign coming to an end on Monday evening, amidst rains in several parts, all political parties made their last-ditch effort to woo voters on Monday. Tuesday will be confined to door-to-door campaigns.

The BJP blitz

The Bharatiya Janata Party completed all the important roadshows and rallies, especially by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a day ahead on Sunday. In all, the BJP completed 437 public meetings by both the Central and State leaders, besides 138 roadshows ever since the declaration of elections.

The party has held 9,077 street corner meetings, besides making visits to 311 temples and mutts across the State.

On Monday, party national president J.P. Nadda, who was in Bengaluru, watched the movie *Kerala Story* in a multiplex with other BJP leaders. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai continued to campaign in his constituency of Shiggaon. BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel toured his home district of Dakshina Kannada.

Rahul-Priyanka show

In Congress camp, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra conducted a roadshow in Bengaluru on Monday, while Rahul Gandhi took a ride on the BMTC bus. Ms. Priyanka was accompanied by Vijayanagar MLA M. Krishnappa, who is seeking re-election from the segment, and his son Priya Krishna, the Congress candidate in the neighbouring Govindarajanagar constituency. She addressed a series of public meetings and held multiple roadshows in different parts of the State in the last few days.

Last-ditch effort: (Clockwise from top left) Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai visiting Vanahalli, Hanumanahalli, and Hiremallur villages to conduct election campaign; Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi waving at supporters during a roadshow in support of M. Krishnappa and Priya Krishna, Congress candidates for Vijayanagar and Govindarajanagar constituencies, respectively, in Bengaluru; JD(S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda and his son H.D. Kumaraswamy campaigning for Nikhil Kumaraswamy in Ramanagara; and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacting with passengers on a BMTC bus in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR, ANI, AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier in the day, Mr. Rahul travelled in a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus and spoke with women about the party's commitment to implementation of promises, including free travel in government-owned buses, it made in the poll manifesto. At the bus stop, he met and interacted with some college-going students and working women.

Nonagenarian joins in

The Janata Dal (Secular) leaders, including former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, ended their campaign rallies at Ramanagara, canvassing for Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

Mr. Gowda also canvassed in Malavalli and Holenarasipur in the morning before arriving at Ramanagara. Since he started his campaign on April 24 till the public campaign ended, Mr. Gowda, who is turning 90, has covered 38 Assembly constituencies

Earlier, addressing a mammoth rally at Channapatna from where he is contesting, Mr. Kumaraswamy promised to be accessible to electorate always. Explaining the Pancharatna programme, he said, "Our party has not been accused of any commission. My programmes are to ensure that the farmers do not get into debt trap."

He said, "Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to the State, he did not speak about the problems of the people. Congress and BJP are accusing each other, forgetting State's interest."

Election Commission on high alert to check inducements during silent period

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pre-poll seizures in Karnataka made so far since the announcement of the 2023 Assembly elections crossed a record ₹375 crore on Monday

With public campaigning for the Karnataka Assembly polls coming to an end on Monday, the Election Commission is keeping strict vigil with money distribution being usually high during the silent period on the last two days with a frenzy. Additional flying squads have been deployed and Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) have been put on high alert.

Pre-poll seizures in Karnataka made so far since the announcement of the 2023 Assembly elections have crossed a record ₹375 crore on Monday. In fact, this time's seizures are higher than the cumulative pre-poll seizures made in the last four elections in Karnataka. While ₹14.42 crore was seized in 2013 Assembly polls, ₹28.08 crore was confiscated in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, ₹185.74 crore in the 2018 Assembly polls and ₹ 88.27 crore in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The EC had seized cash and articles worth nearly ₹58 crore (between March 9 and 27) even before the election date was announced. Nearly a 100 constituencies have been identified as expenditure sensitive this year and the EC has deputed 145 expenditure observers this time. Flagging money power as a major concern in Karnataka, the EC and had directed officials to crack the whip even before the announcement of polls.

The EC has put in place 2,040 flying squads, 2,605 SSTs, 266 video viewing teams, 631 video surveillance teams, and 225 accounting teams. Of the total 942 checkposts, 171 have been set up at inter-State borders to track the movement and distribution of goods, and monetary transactions to ensure inducement-free election.

In 2018, a total of 1,344 flying squads and 1,255 static surveillance teams had been set up to monitor electoral irregularities and fraud.

Additional teams

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, said all flying squads and SSTs have been put on high alert. "Additional flying squads depending on the requirement in each Assembly constituency are being deployed to check inducements, which are usually high, during the silent period. We have instructed the teams to be on high alert during this period," he said.

After the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force till Monday, the amount of cash seized was ₹147.46 crore, while liquor worth ₹83.66 crore, narcotics worth ₹23.66 crore, precious metals worth ₹96.59 crore, and other items (freebies) worth ₹24.31 crore were seized.

Last week, the EC directed State teams to enhance vigilance on Karnataka's borders. At a review of election arrangements in Karnataka, the CEC had emphasised the need for vigil over the 185 inter-State checkposts across the six neighboring States.

Taking note of the seizure of the high seizure, the CEC directed that local officers failing to control money power should be made accountable.

Cong. bid to instigate Veerashaiva-Lingayat community has failed, says Yediyurappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party ended its public campaign for the Karnataka Assembly elections on Monday with its Lingayat strongman B.S. Yediyurappa insisting that the Opposition Congress has failed in its attempt to "politically instigate" the dominant Veerashaiva-Lingayat community.

"The Congress did not remember the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community when it was in power. Now, when it is not in power, and when the elections are fast approaching, the Congress is appeasing them. The Congress is trying to instigate the Veerashaiva-Lingayats. But this community has strongly stood by us," Mr. Yediyurappa told media-persons in Bengaluru.

"Those who tried to divide the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community have now started talking in favour of the community. The Veerashaiva-Lingayat community has nurtured us, and has remained with us. I had the opportunity to become Chief Minister due to the blessings of Veerashaiva-Lingayats, OBCs, Dalits and all classes," Mr. Yediyurappa said.

He claimed that around 70 seers from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community had met him to make it clear that they would not support the Congress in its efforts to divide the community.

Claiming that the SC/ST population would completely stand with the BJP this time in the wake of various measures taken by the party, including increasing reservation, he said the party would also take up a legal fight to protect the reservation for Lingayats and Vokkaligas. He expressed confidence that the party would win 130 to 135 seats, and form the government on its own. Describing Mr. Modi as "a leader who has gone beyond caste and geographical boundaries", Mr. Yediyurappa said Mr. Modi is working as per the principles of 12th century social reformer Basavanna.

Seeking to play down the Congress campaign, Mr. Yediyurappa said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is not comparable to BJP stalwarts like Mr. Modi and (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah.

BJP Central Parliamentary board member and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa with State Election Management Committee convener Shobha Karandlaje and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, during a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Virajpet Assembly constituency is set to witness a neck-to-neck fight

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
VIRAJPET

The hilly Kodagu district, which has two Assembly constituencies – Madikeri and Virajpet, has been a bastion of the BJP for the last two decades, with Hindutva being an important plank.

But this time, the BJP is facing pressure, particularly in Virajpet.

Virajpet constituency has been represented by K.G. Bopaiah from the Arre Bashe Gowda community for the last three terms, and he is in the fray for another term.

Virajpet is dominated by Kodavas, who seem unhappy with Mr. Bopaiah getting a fourth chance. This has brightened the chances of Congress candidate A.S. Ponnanna.

Both BJP and Congress are convinced that they are in for a neck-to-neck fight.

A BJP member from Virajpet admitted to anti-incumbency. "People of the constituency wanted someone else to be given ticket. So now, we are only focusing on Hindutva and Mr. Modi to win election."

Mr. Ponnanna is a former Additional Advocate General of Karnataka and son of firebrand politician late A.K. Subbaiah. Subbaiah was the first president of BJP in the State but later turned a bitter critic of the party.

> They (BJP) do not have anything to talk about in terms of development. Tipu Jayanti is a dead issue, and will not be celebrated.
>
> **A.S. PONNANNA**
> Congress candidate

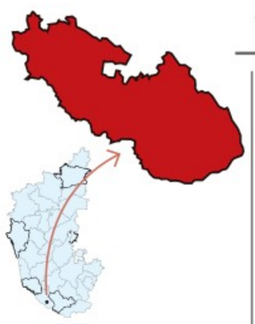
According to Congress members, Mr. Ponnanna had started the groundwork three years ago.

"Mr. Ponnanna started to re-build the party in the constituency. Influenced by him, many members of BJP joined Congress. However, hardcore Hindutva believers are campaigning against Mr. Ponnanna, and this may affect us," a Congress member said.

What candidates say

Mr. Bopaiah told *The Hindu* that he will win the election again, and insists the Kodava community is not unhappy with him. "We are going with the Hindutva and development agenda. The people in the constituency have rejected caste politics long ago. Hence, I have been elected continuously, and people only see the development. I have done a lot of work during the flood and landslides in 2018, Covid-19 pandemic and for developing infrastructure," he said. The BJP has been taking help of Addanda Cariappa, director of Rangayana in Mysuru, who was in a controversy recently for his play *Tippuvina nija kanasugalu* (Real dreams of Tipu). He has been campaigning for Mr. Bopaiah, who has been warning voters that Tipu Jayanthi will be celebrated if Congress is comes to power.

Responding to BJP's strategy Mr. Ponnanna, said, "They do not have anything to talk about in terms of development. Tipu Jayanti is a dead issue, and will not be celebrated. I have been working to solve issues such as health infrastructure, waste management, drinking water and environment in the constituency, which are the real issues."



What people want

- Solution to man-animal conflict
- Solution to looming threat of landslips

Virajpet Assembly Constituency

Main candidates

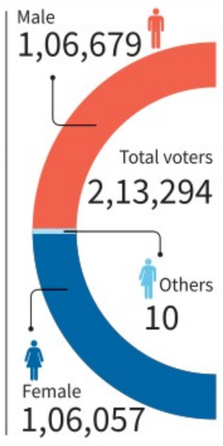
K.G. Bopaiah
BJP

A.S. Ponnanna
Congress

Manzoor Ali M.A.
JD(S)

History of the seat

- BJP's K.G. Bopaiah has been representing the constituency for the last three terms
- Virajpet constituency is dominated by Kodava community, and it is known for tourism, coffee, and black pepper



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	K.G. Bopaiah BJP	67,250 47.23%	B.T. Pradeep Congress	63,836 44.84%	Dambekodi Madappa JD(S)	5,880 4.13%
2018	K.G. Bopaiah BJP	77,944 49.40%	C.S. Arun Machaiah Congress	64,591 40.94%	M. Sanketh Poovaiah JD(S)	11,224 7.11%

M BG-BGE

Kerala orders judicial probe into boat tragedy

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi express grief at the loss of 22 lives; State announces ₹10-lakh aid to kin of victims while Centre offers ₹2 lakh from the PM's National Relief Fund; State to examine if guidelines are being followed when giving licences for the boats

Abdul Latheef Naha
MALAPPURAM

The Kerala government has ordered a comprehensive judicial investigation into the tourist boat accident at Tanur on Sunday, in which 22 people, including 15 children, died.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited Tanur on Monday and announced the judicial investigation. He said the State government would give ₹10 lakh to the family of each of the victim. The government will also bear the expenses of the treatment of the survivors, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at the loss of lives and announced an aid of ₹2 lakh to the family of each victim from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

The Chief Minister said a special team of police would also conduct a parallel investigation into the tragedy.

"The loss is so grave and inconsolable. I am with the families of the victims in their bereavement," said Mr. Vijayan.

He said technical experts would be included in the judicial commission to be constituted for a comprehensive inquiry into the tragedy that took place in the Poorapuzha estuary at Ottumpuram Thoovaltheeram between Tanur and Parappanangadi around 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Stringent measures would be taken to avoid recurrence of such tragedies. The government would examine if the guidelines were followed when giving licences for the boats, he said.

The boat that sank in the Poorapuzha estuary hauled out of the river on Monday. SAKEER HUSSAIN

Mr. Vijayan arrived at Calicut International Airport, Karipur, by flight and visited Government Taluk Hospital at Tirurangadi, where the post-mortem of eight of the victims took place. He reviewed the situation at a meeting held at Tanur MLA's office.

Boat owner arrested from Kozhikode

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The police on Monday evening arrested Nasar, the owner of the boat that capsized claiming the lives of 22 people at Tanur.

It was reported that Nasar had gone into hiding after the incident on Sunday night.

Following a tip-off that Nasar was spotted at a house in Kozhikode city, the police arrested him.

The Tanur police have registered a case under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) related to unnatural death.

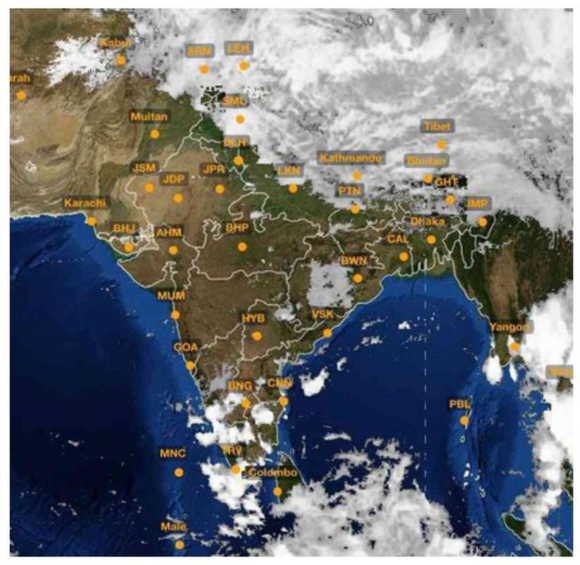
Sujith Das S, District Police Chief, Malappuram, has constituted a 14-member special investigation team, led by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, and the Inspector, Tanur, to inquire into the tragedy.

Sources said that more charges would soon be framed against Nasar.

It is learnt that the Fisheries Department too is planning to take action against Nasar for using a fishing boat for tourism purposes.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places isolated places over West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	39.8	26.2	Kozhikode	—	36.7	27.6
Ahmedabad	—	41.6	27.4	Kurnool	—	39.0	28.3
Aizawl	—	37.4	17.5	Lucknow	—	37.0	23.1
Allahabad	—	40.0	24.3	Madurai	—	36.0	25.1
Bengaluru	6.0	28.1	21.4	Mangaluru	—	34.9	26.6
Bhopal	—	38.5	25.0	Mumbai	—	32.6	27.5
Bhubaneswar	—	39.1	27.5	Mysuru	—	34.4	20.6
Chandigarh	—	35.0	21.3	New Delhi	4.0	36.2	21.2
Chennai	—	35.1	26.0	Patna	—	40.8	23.2
Coimbatore	—	34.4	24.4	Port Blair	—	33.8	27.0
Dehradun	—	32.2	18.4	Puducherry	—	34.8	24.8
Gangtok	18.0	22.8	13.0	Pune	0.6	36.9	24.7
Goa	—	34.6	27.1	Raipur	11.6	38.5	24.6
Guwahati	0.3	32.2	22.1	Ranchi	—	38.2	23.8
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Shillong	—	27.3	16.2
Hyderabad	—	36.3	26.0	Shimla	3.0	22.4	12.2
Imphal	—	34.1	20.3	Srinagar	2.0	13.6	6.7
Jaipur	3.0	39.0	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.6	26.3
Kochi	—	32.6	27.0	Tiruchi	8.0	35.5	23.6
Kohima	—	26.5	13.5	Vijayawada	—	37.2	27.2
Kolkata	—	38.5	28.7	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	..—	..—	...157	...191	
Bengaluru	.07	..90	.49	50	54	
Chennai	105	..28	.14	53	38	
Delhi	.20	..18	.19	...117	...121	
Hyderabad	.13	..12	.40	55	92	
Kolkata	.26	..25	.16	45	70	
Lucknow	.08	..52	.36	...119	...151	
Mumbai	.03	..13	.25	...134	...100	
Pune	121	183	114	...119	87	
Visakhapatnam	.16	..45	.22	57	81	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sasaram, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 304 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Arikompan mock charges at bus in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/MADURAI

The wild tusker Arikompan, which was translocated from Chinnakkanal to the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Kerala's Idukki, entered the Chinnamanur-Megamalai route under the Tamil Nadu forest area on Sunday night.

It has been moving somewhere on the ghat section near Megamalai hill station, said Srivilliputtur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve Forest Deputy Director S. Anand on Monday.

Mr. Anand clarified that the elephant, which was moving inside the forest area, came to the ghat road on Sunday night, when a bus was on the stretch. After a pause, the elephant moved back inside the forest following which the bus drove off.

Special teams were closely monitoring the pachyderm, Mr. Anand said.

"It was a mock charge, not an attack on the bus," said Chief Wildlife Warden Srinivas R. Reddy.

Now, Election Commission issues notice to BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission (EC) has issued a notice to the ruling BJP for publishing an advertisement in national and local newspapers in Karnataka "without verifiable facts" regarding specific claims made in the advert.

The BJP has been asked to show reasons and provide verifiable and traceable facts on the claims made in the advertisement by 8 p.m. on May 9, 2023, and also post it on public domain. The party has been asked to explain why action should not be initiated against it for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and relevant legal provisions under Representation of the People Act and IPC.

The EC had earlier issued a notice to the Congress on newspaper advertisements on "rate cards" of the ruling BJP relating to corruption charges.

The notice to BJP issued on Monday stated, "The commission had received a complaint dated May 8 from the Congress that the BJP had published an advertisement making some specific claims about the Congress party. It may be recalled that the commission had on May 2 advised all parties and stakeholders to remain within the confines of the MCC and the legal framework in their utterances while campaigning so as to maintain the dignity of the political discourse and not to vitiate the campaign and election atmosphere."

"While general claims and accusations are part of election campaigns, specific allegations and claims about the opponents need to be supported by verifiable and traceable facts... Any claim made without basis and empirical evidence has the potential of misleading the voters...," the notice stated.

"It is expected that BJP must be possessing verifiable and traceable facts based on which these specific/explicit claims about an opponent have been made. You are, therefore, directed to convey the verifiable and traceable facts regarding the claims made in the advertisement given by you along with an explanation by 8 pm on May 9 and also put that in public domain," the notice stated.

Aishwarya Reddy Thatikonda

Hyderabad woman among nine killed in Texas shooting

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A woman from Hyderabad was among the nine shot dead by a gunman in Texas, U.S., on Sunday. Working as a project manager with a private company in Dallas, she was shopping at a mall with a friend when the shooting took place.

Aishwarya Thatikonda, 27, a resident of Saroornagar in Hyderabad and the daughter of a judicial officer in Rangareddy district court, was staying in Dallas, Texas. Reports confirmed that Aishwarya was among those killed when the gunman, Mauricio Garcia, fired at a crowd at Allen Premium Outlets mall in Texas, before he was shot dead by a police officer. Her friend Sai Vikas said Aishwarya was shopping at the mall with a friend, Sreyas Reddy. "Aishwarya, Sreyas and I have been friends since school. I was told by my friends that Sreyas was wounded and is out of danger after the doctors removed two bullets from his body," said Vikas. Sai Vikas took to Twitter to seek help from the Telangana government and the U.S. Embassy. Responding to the tweet, Telangana IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao's office assured to provide assistance in bringing the body back.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theocclt d@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
"e"-Procurement Notice No. 08 /OCCL/2023-24 (on-line)

Odisha Construction Corporation Limited, Gopabandhu Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar Invites proposals from interested firms for preparation and submission of following Corporate documents from the eligible firms:

Sl No.	Name of Assignments	Bid Identification No.	Bid Security (through on-line transfer (in Rs.)	Period of Completion of Assignment	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Request for Proposal (RFP) for (a) Preparation of Corporate Plan and financial Projections for five years. (b) Preparation of a vision Document up to the year 2036 i.e. one hundred year of statehood of Odisha to operate in a competitive environment, improved capabilities, adoption of modern construction technology, diversification into related areas of business emphasizing Odisha State and PAN India operation. (c) Preparation of a vision Document up to the year 2047 i.e. one hundred year of independence of India for OCCL to operate in a competitive environment, improved capabilities, adoption of modern construction technology, diversification into related areas of business emphasizing Odisha State and PAN India operation.	OCCL-CS/01/2023-24	Rs.50,000/-	06 (Six) Calendar months	From 09.05.2023, 03.30 PM to 29.05.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 15.05.2023, 03.30 PM to 29.05.2023, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 30.05.2023, 12.00 Noon onwards.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
CAD-480
MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34120/11/0011/2324

ଓଡିଶା ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ଓ ବିପଣନ ସମିତି ORMAS
ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society
creating competence and values in rural Odisha
Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha
SIRD & PR Campus, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751012, India
Tel : 0674-2565870/71
Email:ormashq@gmail.com
Website : www.ormas.org

EOI No. 2021 / ORMAS/SD/438-I/2021 / Date : 08.05.2023

Expression of Interest (EOI) for

A) Engagement of Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) for Skilling of Rural Youth on Plumbing, Pump Operation, Solar Panels & Electricals for Jal Jeevan Mission / BASUDHA, RWS&S, Odisha Implemented by ORMAS

B) Engagement of Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) to undertake Placement linked Skill Development Training of Youth in the targeted areas of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) Ltd.

Sealed responses are invited by ORMAS (Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society), PR & DW Department, Government of Odisha from interested agencies for the following assignments through an EOI.

A) Engagement of Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) for Skilling of Rural Youth on Plumbing, Pump Operation, Solar Panels & Electricals for Jal Jeevan Mission/BASUDHA, RWS&S, Odisha Implemented by ORMAS

B) Engagement of Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) to undertake Placement linked Skill Development Training of Youth in the targeted areas of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) Ltd.

The detailed information may be downloaded from the ORMAS website **www.ormas.org** along with terms & conditions of the EOI.

The EOI response should be submitted in the prescribed format along with all relevant documents duly signed and sealed. ***The EOI response should reach the ORMAS on or before 1st June 2023 by 1:00 PM either by Courier/ Speed post/ Registered Post/ Drop Box in two separate envelopes clearly specifying the name of assignment.*** The applicant agency may apply for both or any one of the assignment as mentioned above. EOI response (s) received after due date & time shall not be accepted. The ORMAS shall not be responsible for delay in postal delivery or similar reasons.

In case of any Addendum/ Clarification/ Corrigendum/ Extension regarding this EoI, the same will be published in the above website. Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EoI, and to cancel the process at any time prior to the award of contract without assigning any reason thereof.

Additional Secretary to Govt.
& Chief Executive Officer, ORMAS
CAD-481:
OIPR-19004/11/0002/2324

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, V.Sakkubai W/o Late K.Murugesan residing at No 236, MIMS North West appartment, HRBR Layout 2nd Block, Bangalore 560043, my correct date of birth is 02.06.1951 as per Aadhar, PAN and Voter ID. But in ECHS card my birth date is recorded wrongly as 06.01.1949. i submit affidavit dtd.03.05.2023, Sworn before advocate & Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore- 560033

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ravi Kumar Rayapaati S/o Soma Raju , residing at Flat No B-902, Ninth Floor, Gina Shalom Apartments, Bhattarahalli, Avalahalli , Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560049, have changed the name of minor Son Aaryan Rayapaati aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as Aaryan Ravikumar for all purposes in future.

I G Manjula Reddy alias Manjula Reddy G D/o Gogulamudi Hanumantha Reddy , W/o S V Krishna Reddy , residing at # 209, Sriven Paradise 5th Cross Lakshmi Layout Munnekolala, Marathahalli , Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560037, have changed my name to Manjula Reddy Gogulamudi for all purposes in future

I, MUKESH Kumar, r/at Flat No 002, G.F, IHFD Apt, Vasavi Temple Road, VV Puram, Bangalore 560004 have changed my name as Mukesh Mehta vide affidavit dtd 06.05.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bluru

I, KASHISH Mehta, r/at Flat No 002, G.F, IHFD Apt, Vasavi Temple Road, VV Puram, Bangalore 560004 have changed my name as Kashish Mukesh Mehta vide affidavit dtd 08.05.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bluru

I, MUKESH Mehta, r/at Flat No 002, G.F, IHFD Apt, Vasavi Temple Road, VV Puram, Bangalore 560004 have changed my son name from Deep Mehta to Deep Mukesh Mehta vide affidavit dtd 08.05.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bluru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

We, SAURAV Ghosh and Oma Ghosh, R/at Flat No.405, Vibrant Sunrise Apartment, Karuna Shree Layout, Medahalli, Virgonagar, Bengaluru-560049, have changed our son's name from Hridank Ghosh to Aadvay Ghosh vide affidavit dated 04-05-2023 before Notary D. Gunashekar, Bangalore.

I, SEEMA Kumari Mukesh Kumar, r/at Flat No 002, G.F, IHFD Apt, Vasavi Temple Road, VV Puram, Bangalore 560004 have changed my name as Seema Mehta vide affidavit dtd 06.05.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bluru

I, MOHAMMED Younus S/o Mohammed Zackria residing at No.18 FF01, Bismillah Residency,Khazi Street, Near Basavanagudi Masjid, Bengaluru-560004 Karnataka have changed my name to Mohammed Younus Virinjipuram Kallechi vide affidavit dated 08-05-2023 before Meer Hassa Notary Bengaluru.

I, FARHATH Unnisa Mohammed W/o Mohammed Tahir residing at No.23, Kandaswamy Mudaliar Street, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 Karnataka have changed my name to Farhath Unnisa vide affidavit dated 08-05-2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, KUMARA.G, S/o Govindappa, R/at Kempalinganahalli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural-562123, Karnataka have changed my name from Kumara.G to Kumar Govindappa vide affidavit dated 28-04-2023 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bangalore.

I, KARLINE Maria Devaraj, W/o. Mathew N.V., r/at No.34 & 35, K No 34, Byarathi Village Kothanur Post, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name as Curlin Maria Devaraj vide affidavit dtd 08.05.2023 sworn befre Notary B.Seshagiri, Bluru

TENDERS

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI)

Head Office: 'ICAI Bhawan', Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi – 110002.
Southern Regional Office: ICAI Bhawan, 122, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, NUNGAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI - 600034. Tamilnadu.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) invites Sealed unconditional Tender in two bid System, (Technical & Financial Bid in two separate envelopes) in prescribed format, from eligible, experienced and reputed Contractors in respect of proposed **CONSTRUCTION OF COMPOUND WALL, INTERNAL STREET LIGHTING WITH ELECTRICAL FITTINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF CAMP OFFICE BUILDING FOR ICAI INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (ICOE) at PLOT No's. PB-10, 11, 12, 13/1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23 in the SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, IRUNGATTUKKOTTAI, SRIPERUMBUDUR TALUK, KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT- 602 117, TAMIL NADU.**

The last date of receipt of duly filled in bid is 31.05.2023 upto 05:00 P.M. The detailed terms and conditions/ Tender are available at ICAI's website **www.icai.org & www.sirc-icai.org**

Secretary, ICAI

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

MALE, SENIOR Accountant B.com / M.com / MBA / CA with 10 years experience in Tally, GST, TDS for a leading infrastructure development company near Chennai, email ID : lsv@ganeshvenkat.com

LEGAL NOTICE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(ORDER 5, rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the court of Ms. Preeti Agrawal Gupta
District Judge (Commercial Court)-05, South-East
Room No. 22, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi
CS (COMM.) No - 275/2022
One 97 Communications Ltd.
Versus
Alertbox Ventures Pvt. Ltd.
To,
D-1 Alertbox Ventures Private Limited
Through Its Director Mr. Myna G Raj
Having Registered Office at : No. 791/A
Singasandra Hosur Main Road,
Bangalore, Karnataka-560068
Email ID: accounts@alertbox.in
The Defendant above named
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **19-05-2023** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court, this 02-05-2023. Sd/
District Judge (Commercial Court)-05, South-East
(Seal) Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

TENDERS

The Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., No. P.1

Ref.:Ponlait / Purchase / Diesel operated Bread Baking Oven / 2021-22
Date: 09.05.2023

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation Tender for the Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Rotary Rack Oven at PONLAIT
www.py.gov.in
Last Date for Submission: 22.05.2023 before 12.00 P.M.
Contact Ponlait:
9942994116 / 9942994127
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Of hope and vigilance

WHO's announcement gives hope, but there is a message of caution

The world's lived experience with pandemics has conferred it with the certitude that epidemics wane to die down, or transform into seasonal outbreaks; COVID-19 is no exception. The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, last week declared, on the basis of advice from the emergency committee (comprising independent experts), that the COVID-19 pandemic was no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. After over three years, he was reading down an emergency that he first announced on January 30, 2020, forced by a rapidly spreading infection that moved from China to 20 other nations across the world. Dr. Tedros notably invoked hope when he declared that COVID-19 was over as a global health emergency, but followed it up with a rider: it did not mean COVID-19 was no longer a global health threat. Over the months leading up to the announcement, various experts with WHO were laying the ground, urging that it was time to treat COVID quite like seasonal influenza. For a world fatigued by great loss, human and otherwise, caused by the COVID pandemic, and exhaustively on guard, the DG's announcement brought a collective sigh of relief.

However, the task now for WHO and nations is to ensure that this announcement is not selectively received, to prevent the world from slipping into a torpor of complacence. For, COVID is not over – multiple variants and sub variants continue to emerge regularly, and it has not yet settled into a seasonal pattern that one can read, or prevent. At any point of time, it is possible that a new variant, or recombinant may lead to rapid transmission and cause severe disease, resulting in hospitalisations and even higher mortality rates. As global health experts continue to insist: for health systems, eternal vigilance is essential, to maintain a level of care and periodically test their capacity to respond to epidemic situations. The impressive network of INSACOG laboratories capable of genetic sequencing and even routine health infrastructure built up during the COVID years must be utilised well. It is also important to not take the foot off the pedal in terms of research and development into vaccine platforms, drug delivery systems, anti virals, and antibiotics. This will enable nations to be prepared and on guard not just for COVID-19 but also other emerging infections. At a personal level, individuals will benefit from following the hygiene and precautions that became a habit during the COVID years, particularly adhering to the vaccination schedule, and following hand hygiene and masking under certain circumstances.

A tragedy foretold

Kerala should ensure the maritime board is able to enforce regulations

Every time a boat capsizes in Kerala, where inland cruise tourism is flourishing largely unregulated, the familiar refrain is that it was a tragedy waiting to happen. The boat that sank in the Poorapuzha estuary in Tanur municipality on Sunday evening, killing 22 people, 15 of them children, was packed with local tourists to twice its capacity and was not cleared for post-dusk operations. It remains unclear how a fishing boat fitted with an upper deck received clearance, if at all it did, to conduct inland tourist operations. Rescue workers, most of them fishermen, sustained injuries from the broken glass panels that covered the windows on its lower deck where most victims had got trapped. The Kerala government has ordered a judicial inquiry, with the support of experts, into the accident and the police have arrested the owner of the vessel.

It was just a month ago that international disaster management expert Muralee Thummarukudy issued a prescient warning, which sounds eerie in hindsight, of an imminent houseboat tragedy in Kerala with at least 10 casualties. The cautionary note flagged the absence of crew training, sparse availability and use of safety material such as life vests, lack of on-board briefing of guests and erratic renewal of operational licence and enforcement thereon. Inquiring into the Thekkady boat capsize, in 2009, the worst Kerala has seen with 45 casualties, the former judge, E. Moideen Kunju, had recommended expeditious formation of a maritime board to regulate water transport. The Kerala Maritime Board was formed in 2017 by merging the Directorate of Ports, Kerala State Maritime Development Corporation Limited, and the Kerala Maritime Society. But the police investigation in the case dragged on, with a second charge sheet filed 10 years after the accident. The trial has not begun yet. As per official data, 3,213 inland vessels are in operation in Kerala's numerous waterways, but industry insiders give a ballpark figure of about 4,000 vessels, also counting the unlicensed ones. The maritime board, vested with the responsibility to ensure the fitness, licensing and safe operation of all tourist vessels in Kerala including houseboats, is short of adequate manpower to carry out its job. It has no enforcement wing to keep a tab on errant vessels including those that dodge periodic renewal of licence. Boat tourism holds tremendous potential in a State lined with waterways, but to be able to reap its benefits, the safety of the people using it should be given top priority. The government should expeditiously arm the maritime board with the wherewithal to carry out enforcement. This will ensure that erring officials are taken to task and not just the boat crew and managers.

India's China strategy needs to be debated

Shashi Tharoor

is a third-term MP (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, a former United Nations Under Secretary-General and former Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. He is the award-winning author of 24 books, including 'Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st century'

Armaan Mathur

is a political science honours student at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi

Is India repeating the errors made in its pre-1962 engagement with China?

The Chinese have a knack for making headlines on India's borders. The latest move, in April, saw them "renaming" 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh, which they consider to be "Zangnam" or, in English, "South Tibet". The announcement was made after approval from the State Council, implying a green light from the very top of the Chinese system. Zhang Yongpan, of the Institute of Chinese Borderland Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, claims that China's move to "standardise" names in Zangnam "completely falls within China's sovereignty and it is also in accordance with the regulation on the administration of geographical names".

Long-held tactic, much provocation

India responded typically by "rejecting outright" this act of nomenclatural aggression on part of the Chinese. But is that enough? The "re-naming" of disputed territories has been a long-held tactic of the Chinese government, and this is the third batch of "re-naming" with reference to Arunachal Pradesh. More significantly, it is not the first provocative act of Chinese provenance in recent months. Ever since the unresolved stand-off at Galwan in June 2020, there has been no serious attempt by Beijing at a resolution, let alone a restoration of the status quo ante, while several instances of further provocation have occurred from the Chinese side. Another border skirmish in December 2022 in the Tawang area showed that whatever policy the Ministry of External Affairs is masking with its anodyne statements, it is not ensuring deterrence.

India has lost access to 26 out of 65 Patrolling Points (PP) in eastern Ladakh, according to a research paper submitted by a senior police officer at the annual police meet in Delhi, last December. The "play safe" approach has turned areas that were accessible (before April 2020) for patrolling by the Indian Army into informal "buffer" zones, resulting in the loss of pasture lands at Gogra hills, the North Bank of Pangong Tso, and Kakjung areas. This is a matter of national security and of grave concern. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assures the nation that no "Indian territory" has been occupied, but such surrenders of access to lands traditionally used by Indians have become routine. Yet, the government refuses to openly call out the Chinese threat. The Prime Minister was willing to stand up and proclaim that "this is not an era of war" while sharing a platform with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin – the leader of a warring country with which India shares deep and friendly relations. What stops him from speaking out on a series of egregious transgressions by China on his own country's borders?

Explaining the Indian stand

There are arguably several factors that have possibly led to the Indian aversion to denouncing the Chinese. Happymon Jacob has identified several: the growing power differential between the two countries; uncertainty about the strategic actions of major powers such as the U.S. in case of a military stand-off; the military capability differential between the two countries (India is not equipped for a major war with China); pressure from Indian business interests anxious to safeguard trade (India's trade dependence on China has now crossed over $100 billion); lack of consensus within the various ministries of the government about the kind of response the Chinese threat merits; and lack of political will within an increasingly hyper-nationalist, image-conscious Bharatiya Janata Party government (Mr. Modi is obsessively anxious not to appear weak, especially just in advance of a general election).

These considerations have led to the emergence of overcautious self-restraint on the part of the Indian government, marked by a refusal to permit even a basic discussion of China in Parliament, on the grounds of national security. This overlooks growing Chinese self-assertiveness on its land and sea borders, bordering on belligerence, which has already set alarm bells ringing in a number of Asian capitals and in Washington. Is India repeating the errors made in its pre-1962 engagement with Communist China? Nehru's vision of India and China as the two major south Asian civilizations led to India being one of the first countries to recognise the Communist government in China and ended up with its softening its line on China's invasion and occupation of Tibet, its encroachment on India's borders and its cartographical aggression in the pursuit of Chinese goodwill. Mr. Modi's current policy of Chinese appeasement seems eerily similar, and could end just as badly.

What lesson does this have for the Indian response today? The ruling party vociferously argues that in the 1950s, India failed to call a spade a spade, behaved too cautiously in its diplomacy, and left too much for too late. The only difference 60 years later appears to be that the Indian government is today reinforcing its border defences and building roads and other infrastructure on the Indian side. While these may prepare India better to resist a People's Liberation Army sweep into India, it does nothing to deter a Chinese build-up and continuing "salami-slicing" tactics on the disputed frontier, while India's diplomacy only emboldens Beijing and leaves potential allies puzzled. Only if there is an acknowledgement of the problem can there be the initiation of a process of resolving it.

China's assertive image building exercise

As a one-party state, China does not have to worry about public approval, but the Chinese Communist Party has shored up its domestic credibility by valorising its international image. Once anchored in the "peaceful rise" theory, it is now about showing strength, determination, economic might and an unwillingness to compromise on what it sees as its core national interests. The absence of a tough rhetorical response to Chinese actions in public is usually viewed there as a Chinese gain, whereas acrimony in public unsettles them.

In fact, China's public image is a source of its vulnerability. It has always had a fear of being isolated in global affairs: this is why its assertiveness today is accompanied by diplomatic overtures in Europe, Russia and West Asia, to add an adroit diplomatic gloss to its uncompromising military determination. India was able to capitalise on China's image-consciousness to get Masood Azhar blacklisted by the 1267 UN Sanctions Committee after China blocked India's efforts for more than a decade, cornering Beijing through nimble, stakeholder-oriented diplomacy, so that in the end, China did not want to be seen as the lone holdout. Hence, image matters to Beijing, and can be exploited to India's advantage.

When dealing with the Chinese, India must always remember Mark Twain's observation, that history does not repeat itself, but it often rhymes. The period since Galwan, 2020-23, is not the same as 1949-62, but the same pattern of appeasement and self-denial is ominously emerging. India is missing an opportunity to loudly and proudly raise matters of its own vital interest by not using a strategy that fractures China's image by challenging it publicly on its transgressions. The government must do what Nehru did, and take the Indian people into confidence. It is time for an urgent debate in Parliament on India's China strategy.

Buddhism, India's soft power projection tool

Abhishek Srivastava

is Assistant Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament, CIPOD, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Kartike Garg

is a postgraduate student of International Relations and Area Studies, SIS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

With its strong historical and cultural ties to Buddhism, India can play a lead role in shaping the discourse around Buddhist issues

There is much significance to India having hosted a two-day global Buddhist summit in New Delhi (April 20-21), which was organised by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation. The summit saw the participation of key figures from the global Buddhist community, including the Dalai Lama. It was at this summit that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, laid emphasis on the continuing relevance of the Buddha's teachings in today's world. The summit was a significant opportunity for India to project and connect with the Buddhist population around the world, thereby strengthening the country's soft power.

India's efforts so far

The Indian government has been actively investing in its Buddhist diplomacy efforts, with a focus on promoting tourism through the development of the "Buddhist tourist circuit". Additionally, Mr. Modi has made it a point to visit Buddhist sites during his Southeast and East Asian visits. By hosting such a high-profile event, the Indian government hopes to demonstrate its commitment to preserving and promoting Buddhist culture and heritage, as well as strengthening ties with the global Buddhist community. With its strong historical and cultural ties to Buddhism, India is well-positioned to play a leading role in shaping the discourse around Buddhist issues on the global stage.

Against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, Mr. Modi said, "India has not given '*Yuddha*' to the world but 'Buddha'." This resonates with his earlier statement of his telling the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, that 'this is not the era of war'. The Delhi summit's theme, "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis", also highlights India's attempts to provide an alternative to contested global politics, with morality as the guiding principle.

Buddhist diplomacy has the potential to promote regional cohesion, given that nearly 97% of the global Buddhist population is based in Asia. During the Cold War, China effectively used Buddhist diplomacy to engage with its neighbouring countries, and it continues to employ this approach to gain legitimacy for its Belt and Road Initiative. As India and China compete to dominate the Buddhist heritage as a tool for soft power, India holds an advantage due to the faith's origins in the country. However, despite being home to a number of key Buddhist sites, such as Bodhgaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar, India has struggled to attract Buddhist tourists, who tend to favour sites in Thailand and Cambodia.

The guiding principle, China factor

India's efforts to position itself as a great power committed to cooperation rather than coercion are rooted in its deep historical and cultural ties to the region. The current government's guiding principles for foreign policy, Panchamrit principles include "*Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata*" which means cultural and civilizational links, which were highlighted during the Delhi summit, which saw a diverse group of 171 foreign delegates from South Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, and Taiwan, along with 150 delegates from Indian Buddhist organisations. Also in attendance were prominent scholars, *sangha* leaders, and dharma practitioners. Through such efforts, India hopes to reinforce its image as a responsible global power committed to peaceful cooperation and regional stability. By laying an emphasis on cultural and civilisational ties, India seeks to promote greater understanding and cooperation between nations and to demonstrate the unique role it can play in shaping the region's future.

India recognises the importance of Buddhism as a means of conducting public diplomacy and has utilised it to its advantage. However, to maintain its edge over China, more action is needed. China is actively seeking to exert control over the appointment of the next Dalai Lama, which would be a blow to India's efforts to project its soft power through Buddhism. India must act to ensure that it remains a key player in the global Buddhist community.

To further strengthen its Buddhist diplomacy, India should continue promoting Buddhism at the highest levels of government, while also organising cultural events to showcase the country's rich Buddhist history. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) could play a significant role in promoting such events within and outside India. Additionally, India should work to strengthen its ties with key Buddhist institutions and leaders around the world. The Delhi summit was a step in the right direction, providing a valuable opportunity for cultural exchange and the sharing of ideas.

The film link

India also needs to utilise the reach of Bollywood in promoting its Buddhist heritage. China, with its influence over Hollywood, has completely dominated the narrative around Buddhism through cinema. In contrast, India is behind in this domain; there have not been any efforts made through cinema. India's G-20 presidency this year could be used to promote Buddhist diplomacy on a bigger scale through various cultural meetings, especially as Buddhist teachings align with the motto of India's G-20 presidency, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

As Buddha was the first diplomat of peace, his teachings of peace and cooperation in these tough times can become the guiding light of Indian diplomacy on the world stage.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragedy in Kerala

The tragic incident of a tourist boat capsizing in Kerala's Malappuram district on Sunday evening (Page, 1, May 8), just like the Morbi bridge accident in Gujarat, shows the level of human negligence in the country. No doubt tourism needs to be encouraged in India to boost the economy but it should not be at the expense of human safety. It is standard practice in our country to react only after an accident and to never be proactive in preventing a tragedy.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

The only aim of the officials and the political executive is to go through the motions of taking what appears to be drastic action. The focus is always on the optics of a futile exercise such as visits by Ministers and other political busybodies. Corruption is at the root of all these accidents. Ideally, those found guilty of a dereliction of duty must face deterrent punishment. But, going by the record of actions taken following accidents, it will be business as usual once the media glare shifts to other issues.

Kurian Mathew,
Kochi

The tragic incident took me back to a visit we made to the Periyar Lake, Kerala, in January and the ride we took on one of the boats. We found the boat to be unsafe due to the poor condition of the lifejackets — the fastening clips were missing and the seams and reflective strips were torn. I took pictures of these and sent them by email to the Principal Secretary, Kerala Tourism and also the Kerala government. The safety culture is non-existent. Staff were not wearing jackets. It was obvious that these items had not been inspected for quite some time which seemed to indicate a very apathetic attitude. No instructions on how to wear the jackets were visible or announced by the staff as there was more than one type of lifejacket. Finally, the use of lifejackets is unsuitable because of their bulk. Life vests should be considered.

Arvind Keith,
Bengaluru

Even though similar incidents have happened in the past, there are no strong measures in place to prevent such tragedies. It remains to be seen whether the Kerala government will ensure that safety guidelines are observed by hundreds of house boats and other small boats ferrying scores of people in different parts of Kerala.

Shiju Thalikunju,
Secunderabad

Manipur unrest

The unrest in Manipur reflects multifarious and long-standing issues of identity, governance, and development in northeast India.
The solution to these issues requires a nuanced approach, involving dialogue, empathy, and a willingness to address the concerns of all communities involved in these States.
The incumbent State government in coordination with the central government must ensure peace in the region.

Mudgal Venkatesh,
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The Maoists are still a threat

On April 26, 10 personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and a civilian driver were killed in a blast, which the police said was caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by Maoists, near Aranpur village in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. The blast occurred some six months before the Assembly elections, and amid claims by the government that the Maoist insurgency has waned. The DRG personnel were returning in a van after carrying out an anti-Maoist operation based on a tip-off, which could have been a trap. The IED was planted underneath the metalled surface of the road. It is not clear whether it was deployed the night before the attack or months earlier, when the road was under construction.

Colonel Shashank Ranjan

is a retired Infantry officer. He is Adjunct Professor with the OP Jindal Global University and is pursuing a PhD on the Maoist insurgency. Views are personal

The message

While it is a fact that the Maoists have been on the back foot for some time, to dismiss their capability to strike at will, especially in their stronghold, would be a mistake. A strike such as the one carried out on April 26 cannot be the brainchild of a local Maoist unit; it is highly likely that this was a trap laid out under the directions of the Maoist Central Committee, indicating the sustained hierarchy of the Maoists. The primary motive seems to be to send out a message of 'continued control' by the guerrillas.

This attack, like many of the proscribed group's previous attacks, was carried out during the tactical counter-offensive campaign – the period between February and June every year when the Maoists carry out maximum attacks against security forces. Out of a total of 17 major strikes in Chhattisgarh (2010-2023), two were carried out in February, four in March, six in April, two in May, and one each in June, November and December. The data clearly point to a pattern that should give the government enough leads to plan its strategy. Most importantly, it is imperative that the security forces remain extra cautious during the months of the tactical counter-offensive campaign by strictly adhering to standard operating procedures and protocols, which seem to have been blatantly flouted during the unfortunate strike on April 26.

It is widely acknowledged that effective policing in insurgency-affected regions is the function of a strong State police force, and that Central police forces ought to supplement and not supplant the State police. According to data of the Bureau of Police Research and Development, there are many vacancies in the State police forces. As on January 1, 2021, the share of vacancies in State police cadres in left wing extremism-affected States was 24.41%, which adversely effects the police-population ratio. It is hoped that this number has improved over the last couple of years. Without comprehensive transformation of the State police, Central forces would achieve little beyond random and, at times, 'misplaced killings.'

In the context of employing local tribal youth for the DRG, a few facets are ignored. First, the local youth, when armed, often get a false sense of empowerment and land in feuds with the Maoists. Such belligerence is due to familiarity by virtue of belonging to the same ecosystem as the Maoists. During the April 26 incident, the intelligence network of the DRG was outclassed by that of the Maoists. Second, the DRG needs to be employed in a controlled manner by the State police. Security should not be simply outsourced to them. The DRG personnel, in this case, seem to have acted independently, exposing their ad-hoc planning. Third, although the combat-worthiness of the DRG is beyond doubt, it is not complemented by the rigour of discipline, which is an imperative quality for troops in any protracted counter-insurgency campaign. The track record of the DRG regarding discipline is not too encouraging, with many of the cadres having been cashiered on disciplinary grounds and some having been found to be involved in crime.

> While the Maoists have been on the back foot for some time, to dismiss their capability to strike at will would be a mistake

AFP

Lasting solutions

The Maoist space is constantly shrinking. However, treating this incident as an act of desperation would be an exercise in complacency. Delving deep into the roots of this festering wound would be the key to success. The incident calls for a deeper reflection on the discontent and dispossession of the tribal people of central India, who are in all respects the most disadvantaged of citizens. The government also needs to pay adequate attention to perception management. A case in point is the extensive road construction projects in Bastar. The government says these projects will enhance the reach of the security forces instead of saying that they will ease the lives of the local population. This conveys the wrong message. Also, the futility of the Maoist ideology in current times is not adequately exposed, to weaken the insurgency. Security is no doubt necessary, in tandem with development, but the focus needs to be beyond security and development.

Not quite the Kerala story

The film by Sudipto Sen shows a clear lack of understanding of Malayali society

STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan
anandan.s@thehindu.co.in

Propaganda, it is said, is best delivered when it doesn't appear to be so. But that is passé given the brazen display of animosity in films such as Vivek Agnihotri's *The Kashmir Files*. Sudipto Sen, director of *The Kerala Story*, seems to have taken a leaf out of Mr. Agnihotri's style book. It could be that the audience these films address demands that the message be served in an unapologetically crass manner.

About a fortnight before its release, *The Kerala Story* was called out by many for its gross misrepresentation of facts and deceit as the trailer claimed to portray the true story of "32,000 women" from Kerala, who it said were lured through 'love jihad' into joining the Islamic State.

The Left, the Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League dubbed the film as an attempt to malign Kerala and the Muslim community, which has greatly contributed to the State's secular cultural milieu, while many organisations and individuals took legal recourse to get the film outlawed on the ground that it aimed to drive a wedge between communities.

The Supreme Court refused to entertain pleas against the movie, and reminded the petitioners about the "money sunk" into the project. It remanded the matter to the Kerala High Court, which also refused to put a stay on the film's release. The makers informed the High Court that they would remove the teaser with the claim about "32,000 women" joining the IS and alter the trailer to say that it was a "compilation of the true stories of three young girls." They also agreed to add a rider that the film is a work of fiction. The High Court upheld the filmmaker's right to free creative expression.

A year ago, a short fiction film, *Anthem for Kashmir*, on human rights violations including enforced disappearances in the State that was reconstituted into two Union Territories, was banned by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology invoking Section 69A of the Information Technology Act. Its maker, Sandeep Ravindranath, chose not to undertake what would have been a complex legal battle citing paucity of support.

On the other hand, the BJP threw its weight behind *The Kerala Story* with none less than the Prime Minister using it as a poll plank in Karnataka where electioneering is in progress. The BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government made the screening of the film tax-free. The Catholic church in Kerala found the moment opportune to push its demand for a ban on *Kakkukali*, a play based on a story with the same name and written by writer Francis Noronha, claiming that it berated Christianity; the argument received the backing of the BJP.

Neither the play nor the film met with a ban, but the age-old debate on the limits of freedom of expression resurfaced in Kerala. Most reviews on social and in conventional media found The Kerala Story ill-motivated and made to demonise a community. The film is riddled with conjecture and smacks of a clear lack of understanding of Malayali society in northern Kerala – a case in point is the unconcealed zeal to paint the Malappuram district in a certain colour.

Several social media users reasoned that the film was made for a non-Kerala audience with a deeply divisive agenda, stemming from a detestation of the State as an outlier in national politics. While that could well be the case, a ban is not an answer to battle a propaganda film no matter its content. Calling for a ban is a double-edged weapon capable of upending future arguments in favour of free expression.

A creative response is possible, as evident from the series of 'real Kerala stories' flooding social media in the wake of the film's release to lukewarm response in cinemas across the State. The wave is led by none other than music maestro A.R. Rahman, who shared a three-year-old video of a Hindu wedding solemnised in the premises of a mosque in Kayamkulam, with a message of unconditional love. Cartoonist E.P. Unny's sketch of a mosque, temple and a church in Thiruvananthapuram a few metres apart from one another and sound artist Resul Pookutty's call for #MyKeralaStory are all getting increasing traction on social media, forming an impromptu body of counter-narratives. All these messages may fall short in terms of reach, but they certainly show the way in building civic resistance in times of imperious governments.

The sharp divide that is Manipur's burden

There is a deep hill-valley divide in access to basic facilities and better jobs

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani, Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Rebecca Rose Varghese

The ethnic violence that broke out in Manipur last week has led to over 50 deaths. Thousands have fled the State or are being evacuated. Hundreds of houses, churches, temples, and vehicles have been vandalised or set ablaze. At the heart of this conflict is the long-standing hill-valley identity divide.

On the one hand, the better educated, Manipuri-speaking urban dwellers, comprising mainly Hindus and a significant share of Muslims, live in the State's valley, which is not covered by forests. They have better access to good quality drinking water, clean cooking fuel, and hospitals. The population in the valley dominates public sector jobs, and the economy of the region is propped up by tourists, who, for the most part, stay in the valley. A higher share of industries, which provide better employment opportunities, can also be found in the valley.

On the other, the relatively less educated tribal people live in the rural areas. A majority of them speak the Tangkhul, Thado, Kabui or the Mao language. Close to 90% of them are Christians. They live in the hilly regions, which are covered mostly by forests, and have relatively poor access to basic facilities. This population is poorly represented in public sector jobs. Very few of them work in industries and don't earn a sufficient income from tourism.

The trigger for the violence was a tribal solidarity march organised by the All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM), which was supported by tribal bodies including the Naga Students Union Chandel, the Sadar Hills Tribal Union on Land and Forests, the Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong and the Tribal Churches Leaders Forum, according to the Press Trust of India. The ATSUM called this rally to protest the Manipur High Court's direction to the State to pursue a recommendation to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the non-tribal Meitei-speaking people (officially called the Manipuri language).

The population with Manipuri as its mother tongue dominates the valley districts – Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal and Bishnupur – and forms 85-99% of each district's population. On the other hand, in the hill districts – Senapati, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Chandel and Tamenglong – the Manipuri-speaking population is less than 4%. Tangkhul in Ukhrul district, Mao in Senapati district, Kabui in Tamenglong district, and Thado across most hill districts are the dominant mother tongues.

The vandalisation of places of worship in the State has brought to the fore the sharp hill-valley divide in religious terms. In the hill districts, 89-96% of the population is Christian, while in the valley their share is marginal. In the valley, 60-75% is Hindu, with the Imphal East and Thoubal districts having a significantly high Muslim population.

The grievance of the hill tribal people that according ST status to the Meiteis will eat into their share of reservation seems to be borne out by data. The tables show that their share in public sector employment (as of 2016) was on the lower side. People from the hills held 35% of public sector jobs while they formed close to 43% of the population, whereas those from the valley held about 65% of such jobs. Also, close to 90% of foreign and 75% of domestic tourists restrict themselves to the valley.

The hill-valley divide is more pronounced when access to basic facilities is compared. In the valley, 73-90% of households had access to better quality water compared to 51-69% in the hill districts. In the valley, 70-90% of households had access to clean cooking fuel, compared to 23-62% in the hills. In the valley, 67-76% of births were institutional, compared to 39-67% in the hills.

The fault lines of Manipur

The tables are based on data collated from the National Family Health Survey- 5 (2019-21) , the Economic Survey Manipur (2020-21) and the Census of India (2011)

Army personnel at the Myanmar-Manipur border overlooking the Kabaw valley. File Photo

Table 1

		Religion (2011)			Dominant mother tongue (2011)						
Type	District	Hindu	Christian	Muslim	Tangkhul	Thado	Manipuri	Mao	Rural population (2011)	Forest cover (2019)	ST share (2011)
Hill	Senapati	9.1%	89.1%	0.3%	2.4%	17.1%	0.4%	46.5%	98.4%	65.3%	87.5%
Hill	Churachandpur	4.4%	93.0%	1.1%	0.2%	27.1%	2.9%	0.0%	93.3%	85.8%	92.9%
Hill	Ukhrul	4.1%	94.6%	0.6%	88.9%	3.3%	0.4%	0.0%	85.2%	80.7%	94.4%
Hill	Chandel	7.5%	89.5%	2.1%	0.9%	30.3%	3.2%	0.0%	88.3%	86.4%	89.0%
Hill	Tamenglong	2.1%	95.8%	0.4%	0.0%	3.3%	0.2%	0.4%	86.2%	87.6%	95.7%
Valley	Imphal West	74.8%	4.5%	4.7%	0.3%	0.4%	90.9%	0.1%	37.7%	10.0%	4.7%
Valley	Imphal East	60.3%	6.0%	17.6%	0.9%	0.6%	85.2%	0.1%	59.8%	38.7%	6.1%
Valley	Thoubal	63.3%	1.0%	25.4%	0.0%	0.0%	98.7%	0.0%	64.2%	13.8%	0.4%
Valley	Bishnupur	73.8%	1.8%	7.9%	0.0%	0.2%	97.6%	0.0%	63.1%	4.3%	1.4%

Table 2

Type	District	Improved drinking water source (2019-21)	Clean cooking fuel (2019-21)	Institutional birth (2019-21)	Fully vaccinated children	Stunted children (2019-21)	Public sector employees (2016)	Foreign tourists (2019-20)	Domestic tourists (2019-20)	Electricity consumption for industries (2016-17)
Hill	Senapati	64%	50%	46%	65%	27%	6.8%	2.0%	3.1%	5.8%
Hill	Churachandpur	63%	62%	73%	65%	25%	8.0%	5.7%	4.0%	1.1%
Hill	Ukhrul	51%	23%	45%	39%	27%	8.4%	1.5%	6.3%	0.1%
Hill	Chandel	69%	52%	56%	56%	34%	6.9%	0.7%	11.3%	0.1%
Hill	Tamenglong	52%	31%	58%	67%	27%	5.1%	0.2%	1.8%	0.5%
Valley	Imphal West	89%	89%	96%	74%	16%	29.4%	80.2%	42.4%	2.2%
Valley	Imphal East	90%	79%	92%	76%	18%	18.9%	8.5%	31.1%	9.5%
Valley	Thoubal	73%	75%	88%	74%	32%	9.6%	0.3%	0.0%	2.5%
Valley	Bishnupur	78%	71%	90%	67%	16%	6.9%	0.9%	0.0%	3.2%

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1973

More seats for States in Lok Sabha

New Delhi, May 8: The Lok Sabha to-day passed with the necessary special majority the Constitution (Thirty-first Amendment) Bill to increase the strength of the House. The Bill, which was passed by 316 votes to 7, increases the upper limit for representation of the States from 500 to 525 and sets the limit for representation to Union Territories at 20. The Minister of State for Law, Mr. Nitiraj Singh Chaudhury, who piloted the measure, explained that its purpose is to maintain the representation for the States at the existing level in the delimitation of constituencies necessitated by the 1971 census. The number of elected members of the present Lok Sabha is 522 – 489 from the 15 major States, 17 from the six smaller States and 16 from the nine Union Territories. The Bill got a wide measure of support in the debate, the spokesmen of the Swatantra and Socialist parties alone opposing it in the third reading stage. Mr. Jagannath Rao Joshi (JS), speaking on the motion for consideration – which was passed by 294 votes to 8 – said that family planning programmes would suffer a setback if increased population entitled a State to get more seats in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Nitiraj Singh Chaudhury said the Bill did not mean that in future there would be an automatic increase in the strength of the Lok Sabha whenever the census figures showed an increase in population. There might be "some marginal change" depending on the circumstances prevailing. The Minister said that as a result of the Bill, the representation for Scheduled Castes would go up. The representation for Scheduled Tribes would remain at the present level of 37 seats.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1923

In Russia

London, May 8: Mr. McNeill announced in the Commons yesterday that a note of protest had been despatched to Moscow, but did not reveal the contents. It is understood that the note severely protests against the measures taken by the Russians particularly in the field of propaganda and the seizure of British trawlers. It is considered in some quarters that an unsatisfactory reply may involve the withdrawal of the British Trade Delegation.

From Page One

In Imphal, State relief camps lose tribals' trust

"On Sunday night, a group of about 100 Kuki people were trying to get out of the MR 1st Battalion camp but the security personnel stopped them," said Golan Naulak, an Imphal resident, who had to flee to the camp. Another resident, a researcher at a government institute, said, "When we first arrived at the MR camp three days ago, it was absolute chaos. There was no food, no proper drinking water, and the authorities were also caught by surprise."

Residents said the other fear tribals in the area have is of being at the mercy of State law enforcement officials. "Whether it is real or perceived, there is a lot of fear among those in the camps. There have been a lot of allegations of police complicity in the violence so far and that is a real concern for a lot of people," the 45-year-old researcher said, adding that the MR 1 camp now has about 400-500 people.

But even as more of the people housed at the MR camps try to leave, those stranded there said the authorities are slowly rehabilitating them to their home towns in their respective districts. A few batches of the tribals have been sent back to Churachandpur and Kangpokpi on Monday morning. Manipur government officials did not respond to *The Hindu*'s questions about allaying fears of tribals being housed at their facilities.

SC says Manipur crisis a humanitarian problem

Those in need of medical care should be transferred to Army or other suitable hospitals, the court said. The Bench urged the government to ensure that "displaced people are able to go back". It said the government should "take all necessary steps for rehabilitation of displaced persons and for protection of religious places of worship".

"You should have told the High Court about Constitution Bench judgments which had held that the High Court does not have the power. It is a Presidential power to designate a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe," Chief Justice Chandrachud told senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, who represented the original petitioners in the case which led to the March 27 order in the Manipur High Court. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Chairperson of the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) Dinganglung Gangmei and the Manipur Tribal Forum, highlighted the need to protect the displaced.

Beware of global stress spillovers: FM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked financial sector regulators to be on their toes to ensure that the "daunting challenges" emerging from the global economy don't affect the stability of India's financial markets.

Chairing the Financial Stability and Development Council, she stressed that maintaining financial stability is a shared responsibility and mooted the need to develop "early warning indicators" to identify likely financial sector stress and take timely corrective action.

"The global financial situation is daunting, but at the same time, the Indian financial sector is well protected. But of course, we have to be cautious and be on our toes," Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said after the parleys.

EC to Cong.: clarify tweet on 'sovereignty'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the high-pitched and often acrimonious campaign for the Karnataka Assembly polls came to a close, the Election Commission (EC) on Monday asked the Congress to clarify and take rectification measures with respect to a social media post attributing to its former chief Sonia Gandhi a remark on the "sovereignty" of the State.

The EC direction comes following a complaint by the BJP, which had sought de-recognition of the Congress and action against Ms. Gandhi over the use of the term in a campaign speech in Hubballi. In a letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the EC observed that the said tweet violates provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

Earlier in the day, in a memorandum to the EC, a BJP delegation led by Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav submitted a copy of the Congress tweet quoting Ms. Gandhi, who is the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson, which said: "CPP Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi *ji* sends a strong message to 6.5 crore Kannadigas: 'The Congress will not allow anyone to pose a threat to Karnataka's reputation, sovereignty or integrity'."

3 civilians killed as MiG-21 crashes into Rajasthan house

Pilot sustains minor injuries as he ejected after failing to recover the jet from an emergency; IAF constitutes Court of Inquiry to ascertain cause; MiG has been involved in 400 accidents till date

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tragedy strikes: Rescue operations under way after an IAF MiG-21 fighter aircraft crashed in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan on Monday. PTI

Three civilians were killed after an Indian Air Force (IAF) MiG-21 fighter jet crashed into a house in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan on Monday. The pilot ejected safely and sustained minor injuries.

"The aircraft had got airborne for a routine operational training sortie from the Air Force Station at Suratgarh. Soon thereafter, the pilot experienced an onboard emergency, following which he attempted to recover the aircraft as per existing procedures. Having failed to do so, he initiated an ejection, sustaining minor injuries in the process," the IAF said in a statement. The incident took place around 9.45 a.m.

The pilot was recovered from about 25 km northeast of Suratgarh base.

The aircraft wreckage fell on a house in Bahlol Nagar in Hanumangarh district, leading to the loss of three lives, the IAF said.

A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident.

In a tragic accident in July 2022, a twin-seater MiG-21 trainer crashed in Rajasthan, killing both pilots onboard – Wing Commander M. Rana and Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal. The IAF, which currently has 31 fighter squadrons, operates three MiG-21 Bison squadrons in service which will be phased out by 2025, one each every year.

An Air Force representative recently informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence that it was essential to phase out the aircraft.

The MiG-21 was inducted into the IAF in the early 1960s, and since then, more than 800 variants of the supersonic fighter were inducted into service. It remained the frontline fighter jet of the force for a long time.

During this period, there were over 400 accidents involving the jet which claimed the lives of around 200 pilots.

Pawar to meet Nitish on May 11, calls for an alternative to NDA govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sharad Pawar

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar on Monday expressed his belief that India needs an "alternative" to the present National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and said he would meet Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the latter's visit to Mumbai on May 11.

Before heading to Nipani in Karnataka to hold a rally for his party's candidate for the May 10 Assembly election, from Solapur, Mr. Pawar confirmed his meeting with Mr. Kumar and stated, "Our outlook is that an alternative [to the NDA government] is needed in the country."

Further, the NCP leader said that all parties need to work together towards the same goal, including Mr. Kumar and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"Those who wish to contribute to it, be it Nitish or Mamata, in my view we all need to work together for the same," the 82-year-old former Union Minister said.

While Mr. Pawar clarified that there were no discussions on Lok Sabha seat sharing in Maharashtra in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the three-party alliance of the Congress, the NCP and the Shiv Sena (UBT), Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Nana Patole said that soon a meeting would be held to discuss the allocation of not just Lok Sabha, but also Assembly seats for the upcoming election in the State.

Mr. Patole, who was also in Solapur on Monday, said, "The allocation will be discussed after the Karnataka Assembly election. There is no factionalism in the district, everyone is working unitedly."

SC seeks Bihar response on plea by slain officer's wife

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

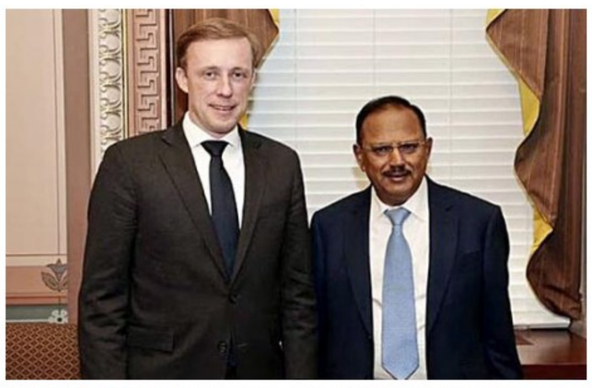
The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the State of Bihar on a petition filed by the widow of murdered Gopalganj District Magistrate G. Krishnaiah challenging a tweak in the Bihar prison law, which facilitated the premature release of former Bihar MP and gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing her husband in 1994.

A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant also issued notice to the Union and Mohan and allowed an intervention application filed by Alphons Kannanthanam, a former IAS officer and Union Minister, in the case.

The Bihar Prison Manual was amended on April 10 to allow convicts serving life imprisonment for heinous offences to apply for remission if they had completed 14 years in prison.

In new 'Quad' meet with U.S., Saudi Arabia, UAE, Doval discusses infrastructure plans in Gulf

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI


Strengthening ties: A file photo of National Security Adviser Ajit Doval with U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In what is being billed as another important "Quad" in West Asia, Saudi Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad Bin Salman (MbS) hosted a special meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of India, the U.S. and the UAE, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

The meeting, to consider regional initiatives on infrastructure, was billed last week by U.S. NSA Jake Sullivan as "unlike anything seen in the region in recent years". Mr. Doval's visit is significant as it follows a week after his visit to Iran, which recently agreed to restart ties in a meeting brokered by Beijing.

The MEA and the National Security Council did not comment on Mr. Doval's travels, but both Saudi Arabia and the U.S. government issued formal statements on the discussions.

"During the meeting, [the leaders] discussed means to strengthen relations and ties between their countries in a way that enhances growth and stability in the region," said the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the meetings that included the UAE NSA and Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Tahnoun, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Mr. Doval.

'Shared vision'

According to a U.S. White House statement, the meeting sought to "advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world".

In particular, the bilateral meeting between Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Doval is one of a number of meetings set over the next few weeks to prepare for upcoming meetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Joseph Biden this month, and the PM's state visit to the U.S. in June. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti will finally present his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu on May 11, and is expected to begin formal meetings on preparations for the state visit.

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Doval will meet again "on the margins of the Quad Summit later this month in Australia," announced a White House statement on Monday.

Mr. Modi is due to travel to Hiroshima as part of the G-7 outreach to other countries (May 19-21), which President Biden will attend; to Papua New Guinea for a bilateral visit where Mr. Biden will also be making a visit at the same time (May 21-23); and then meet Mr. Biden at the US-India-Australia-Japan Quad summit in Sydney (May 24) as well.

The visit to Saudi Arabia is one of several high-profile engagements abroad by Mr. Doval, who was in Tehran and met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, NSA Shamkhani and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian last Monday.

'Counter to China'

The quadrilateral meeting that saw Mr. Doval fly to Jeddah, was first reported by news portal *Axios* from Tel Aviv, which said the meetings on infrastructure were meant to provide a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative and other inroads in the region, and come months after Beijing brokered a breakthrough in the Saudi-Iran ties.

Quoting U.S. officials in its report, *Axios* had said that among the projects is a plan to connect Gulf countries via a railway network and connect to India via shipping lanes from "two ports" in the region. However, it did not explain how this would differ from the already existing connections between India and the Gulf region.

In a speech at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy ahead of the visit, Mr. Sullivan said his meetings in Saudi Arabia were meant to "discuss new areas of cooperation between New Delhi and the Gulf as well as the United States and the rest of the region, fuelled in part by the comprehensive economic partnership signed last year between India and the UAE."

Won't remain silent if there is a constitutional crisis in Bengal, says Governor Bose

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Governor's remarks come in the wake of a spike in political violence in the State

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Monday said he would not remain silent if there was a constitutional crisis in the State.

"If there is a constitutional or legal crisis, I will not remain silent like Hamlet," Mr. Bose said at a function at the ancestral residence of Rabindranath Tagore at Jorasanko in north Kolkata.

Though the Governor has made similar comments that he will not be a mute spectator to law and order deterioration in the State in the past, the remarks during the day come in the wake of a spike in political violence in the State. Three BJP supporters were killed between April 27 and May 2. On Monday, a Trinamool Congress supporter was shot at Amdanga in North 24 Parganas.

Basanti in South 24 Parganas district has also been on the boil over the past 24 hours as clashes between two factions of the Trinamool Congress erupted. Four Trinamool supporters were injured in the violence.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari has on numerous occasions said that Mr. Bose was not proactive on issues relating to law and order like his predecessors Jagdeep Dhankhar and Gopal Krishna Gandhi.

Return Bills: Mamata

Responding to the Governor's remarks, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the chair of the Governor was "respectable" but it had its limitations. She asked the Governor to return the Bills passed by the Assembly on replacing the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of the State universities.

As Bengal bans screening of *The Kerala Story*, Union Minister hits out at Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Mamata Banerjee

The West Bengal government on Monday banned the screening of the film *The Kerala Story* to maintain peace and harmony in the State.

The government, in a press note, said the decision was taken "fearing that the scenes shown in this film could be dangerous to the peace and order of the State".

Earlier, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, at a press conference, described the film as a "distorted story" and accused the BJP of "running its narrative" through such films. Ms. Banerjee also had a message for the Kerala Chief Minister. "Instead of me, it was their duty to criticise it [the film]," she said.

Reacting to the ban, Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said Ms. Banerjee had done injustice to the sisters and daughters of the State by banning *The Kerala Story*. The film exposed the "sinister nexus of religious conversions", he said.

"Today the whole country wants to ask her in one voice that why she has so much problem with a film focused on terrorism?... It is beyond understanding why their sympathies are with terrorist organisations and not with these innocent girls of Kerala who were victims of terrorism. Those who consider this film as agenda-propaganda, I want say to such advocates of terrorism that today every child of the country wants to know the story of Kerala which you have been hiding," Mr. Thakur said.

25 stranded students brought to Mumbai

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Twenty-five students from Maharashtra, who were stranded in the strife-torn areas of Manipur, heaved a sigh of relief on touching down at the Mumbai airport on Monday evening.

The Maharashtra government, which initiated the evacuation process of its residents from the northeastern State, first shifted the students to Guwahati in Assam by a special flight on Monday morning and from there they were brought to Mumbai on a commercial flight.

"In the time of need, the State government stepped up and evacuated us," Sajan Chhagan Pounikar, a National Institute of Technology (NIT)-Manipur student and a native of Nagpur, said.

Tanmay Madav from Kalyan (West) said that of the 25 stranded students, 14 were from the NIT, while the rest were studying at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Manipur, and the National Sports University.

An eerie silence prevails in flashpoint Churachandpur

An orphanage in the district is running out of supplies; while security forces try to evacuate Meitei people, residents say hundreds of tribals are seeking shelter wherever they can find

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

As Churachandpur, the flashpoint of the violence in Manipur, remains on edge from threat of sporadic violence, an orphanage in the district, is running out of essentials such as groceries, ration, and medicines, residents who run the home said on Monday.

They added that they were also trying to track a girl from the home who went missing when the violence broke out.

Amid rising tensions over the demand for Scheduled Tribe status by the Meitei community, a 'Tribal Solidarity March' against the Meiteis' inclusion in Churachandpur on May 3 sparked the violence, which has spread to several districts of the State, including Imphal, with dozens of people reportedly dead.

While thousands of ST people from the Kuki community are stranded in Imphal and the valley areas in Army camps or makeshift shelters, thousands of Meitei people are similarly stranded in the hill districts as well. In the violence since May 3, residents said that nearly 70 tribal villages were razed in the hill districts.

On edge: People waiting at a temporary shelter in a military camp, after being evacuated by the Indian Army in Manipur. AFP

"We have not heard gunfire in the last couple of hours. But we are running out of rice, groceries, first aid [supplies], sanitary napkins, and other essentials," 55-year-old Haokip, who runs the Somin children's home in the Tuibuang area, said. The home currently houses about 10 children aged 12-17, most of whom are from the tribal communities.

Missing girl

However, one of the children, a 15-year-old girl, has been missing since the violence broke out, with desperate efforts under way to trace her. "She and one other child were being sent to their relatives' place for a visit and the violence broke out on their way. While one of them has made it, this girl had to run for safety," Dr. Haokip said.

He added that they received a call about her whereabouts on Monday morning, but that they did not know her exact location. "So we will wait and see what we can do in the meantime," he said, adding that she was likely to be safe in areas dominated by tribal communities.

Even as security forces try to evacuate Meitei people from Churachandpur, residents in the town said that hundreds of tribal people, whose homes had been burned in the violence, are seeking shelter wherever they can find – in community halls and at people's homes.

"Near us in Churachandpur, the situation is peaceful for the time being," one resident said, adding that, in the tribal villages on the foothills, however, raids went on till as recently as Sunday night, forcing many of them to flee, some of whom are being housed by the residents.

Curfew relaxed in several areas of strife-hit Manipur, 20,000 sent home: official

Vijaita Singh
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Curfew has been relaxed in several places in Manipur and over 20,000 people who were in relief camps have been escorted back to their homes, the State government's Security Adviser, Kuldiep Singh, told *The Hindu*.

Nearly 35,000 people were shifted to relief camps after violence broke out in protest against the move to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the Meiteis.

"Around 15,000 people remain in the camps. Curfew timings were relaxed in several places. District Magistrates have been given a free hand to decide the timings," Mr. Singh said. No major incident had been reported in the past 24 hours, he added.

"Mobile Internet will remain suspended for the next two-three days. Many videos that could cause trouble are still being circulated," the adviser said.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said in Imphal that around 60 "innocent people" were killed, 231 persons injured, and 1,700 houses were burnt down. He said a high-level inquiry would be conducted to identify those who instigated the violence and fix responsibility on officials who failed in their duty.

A team of doctors treating refugees affected due to the Manipur violence, at a relief camp in Assam on Monday. ANI

He said the State government would provide an *ex gratia* of ₹5 lakh to the families of the deceased, ₹2 lakh for grievous injuries, and ₹25,000 for non-grievous injuries, and up to ₹2 lakh to families whose houses have been burnt.

Meanwhile, the Army pressed into action Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and helicopters to enhance surveillance in the State and along the India-Myanmar border, according to sources in the Army. Over 120 columns of Army and Assam Rifles personnel have been working on the ground for over 96 hours.

The UAVs have been deployed since Saturday, an Army source said. These were also meant to "prevent any misadventure" by insurgent groups that operate in Manipur, but have camps in Myanmar, the source said.

High Court does not have power to direct changes to Scheduled Tribes List: CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Even as the Manipur government and the Union government claimed that the State was returning to normalcy, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday asked why a 23-year-old Constitution Bench judgment which clearly held that no court or State had the power to "add, subtract or modify" the Scheduled Tribes List was not "shown" to the Manipur High Court in the first place.

Chief Justice Chandrachud orally said a High Court does not have the power to direct changes to the Scheduled Tribes List. "It is a Presidential power to designate a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe," he observed.

> It is a Presidential power to designate a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

Violent clashes and deaths followed in the days after a Single Judge Bench of the Manipur High Court, on March 27, directed that the State government "shall consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meetei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously, preferably within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order".

"It is not open to State governments or courts or tribunals or any other authority to modify, amend or alter the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in the notification issued under clause (1) of Article 342," the Constitution Bench in *State of Maharashtra versus Milind* had held in November 2000.

It had held that a notification issued under clause (1) of Article 342, specifying Scheduled Tribes, can be amended only by law to be made by Parliament.

The Constitution Bench had held that the Scheduled Tribes Order "had to be read as it is".

"The Scheduled Tribes Order must be read as it is. It is not even permissible to say that a tribe, subtribe, part of or group of any tribe or tribal community is synonymous to the one mentioned in the Scheduled Tribes Order if they are not so specifically mentioned in it," the Bench had drawn the line.

Exponential rise in attacks on Christians, says plea in SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petitioners have alleged in the Supreme Court that "attacks" on Christians and registration of cases against them "coincide" with the coming of anti-conversion laws in several States. Their petitions have alleged that attacks against Christians saw an "exponential rise" post 2022.

They listed alleged incidents of violence against Christians in Bihar, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

A recent affidavit filed by the Centre said the petitions were "exaggerated". It said the "attacks", as claimed by the petitioners, were actually "internal fights between neighbours of which one of them would be a Christian".

Vasundhara denies Rajasthan CM's claim

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Senior BJP leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on Monday lashed out at Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for his claim that she, along with two other BJP leaders, helped him save his government during the rebellion in the ruling Congress in 2020.

Ms. Raje said Mr. Gehlot's claim was "outrageous and untrue". "Mr. Gehlot is telling a lie for fear of his defeat in this year's Assembly election. Heaping praise on me is a big conspiracy... No one can humiliate me as much as Mr. Gehlot did in my life," Ms. Raje said. She said he was creating fabricated stories to avoid a "historic defeat".

Ms. Raje took exception to Mr. Gehlot's charge that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had paid crores of rupees to the rebel Congress MLAs for toppling his government in 2020. "He has accused Mr. Shah, whose honesty and integrity is well known," she said.

TIPRA Motha chief to meet Amit Shah tomorrow

Press Trust of India
AGARTALA

TIPRA Motha chairman Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma said that he will be meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on May 10.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Debbarma said that Mr. Shah had invited him for the meeting.

Meanwhile, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs A.K. Mishra, who has been appointed by the Centre to lead the dialogue for resolving the problems of indigenous people in Tripura, cancelled his visit to the State owing to the situation in Manipur.

"Mr. Mishra told me that he is not coming to Tripura because he is rushing to Manipur. After visiting Manipur, he will return to Delhi to brief the Centre about the prevailing situation there. Then, he will visit our State," Mr. Debbarma said on Sunday.

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 04-05-2023 to 07-05-2023
Public Works Department
Tender ID: 2023_PWD_574785_1 * Superintending Engineer, * Construction of Chedialakadavu Bridge across Mayyazhipuzha o * Closing Date: 22-May-2023 * PAC: Rs45289116
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:04-07/May/2023/PRD/(N)10

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1.	Laboratory Attendant	6*	04	01	01	10th pass
2.	Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade)	4**	02	02	00	10th pass

Note: The number of posts is tentative and may change based on the requirement. Any change will be notified before the selection examination on CASFOS website.
The details regarding age, qualification, pay scale, experience, fees, mode of exam, payment and other conditions of eligibility etc. for each post are available in the website: https://www.casfosexam.in/
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On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Civil foundation works for Rocket Models at Visitors Complex, SDSC SHAR (₹ 64 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to 18.05.2023, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderer may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
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२	निविदा स्विकृती अंतिम दिनांक व वेळ	दि. ०६/०६/ २०२३ दुपारी ३.०० पर्यंत
३	निविदापूर्व सभा दिनांक, वेळ व स्थळ	दि. २४/०५/२०२३ दुपारी ३.०० वा. सह शहर अभियंता (वि) १ यांचे कार्यालय, १ला मजला, प्रशासकीय मुख्य इमारत, पिं.चिं.म.न.पा., पिंपरी – १८
४	निविदा उघडणेचा दिनांक	दि. ०९/०६/ २०२३

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सही/–
(बाबासाहेब गलबले)
सह शहर अभियंता (वि)१
पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका
पिंपरी–१८
जाहीरात क्रंमाक– ५३
जा.क्रं.यां/भां/कावि/४८/२०२३
दिनांक ०८/०५/ २०२३

INBRIEF

Unseasonal snowfall hits normal life in Kashmir Valley

A spell of snowfall on Monday, very rare for the month of May, triggered a cold wave and resulted in closure of highways connecting the Kashmir Valley with the outside world. The erratic weather has also negatively impacted the horticulture sector of the Valley. Snowfall was recorded in tourist destinations of Gulmarg and Sonamarg. Fresh snowfall also accumulated on the Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch district. Officials said the traffic on Srinagar-Jammu road was badly affected due to the rains, triggering landslips. The Srinagar-Leh road was closed due to landslips on the Sonamarg-Gumri road.

SC asks DGCA to respond to plea on unruly passengers

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to respond to a petition seeking clear and zero tolerance guidelines for civil authorities and airlines when faced with unruly behaviour by passengers on flights. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to the DGCA in the petition filed by a 72-year-old woman passenger on whom a drunk passenger had relieved himself, in a New York-New Delhi Air India flight. The petitioner, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, said that Air India and the DGCA had both failed to treat her with "care and responsibility".

Second explosion near Golden Temple in Amritsar

One person sustained minor injuries after a low-intensity explosion took place in Punjab's Amritsar on Monday, following which security was beefed up in the city. The blast occurred around 6.15 a.m. on a heritage street near the Golden Temple, close to the area where an explosion had taken place on Saturday. "The explosion occurred around 6.15 a.m. and our technical team is looking into the incident. We are waiting for the report surrounding what content was there, or in what quantity it was," Parminder Singh Bhandal, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Amritsar) told *The Hindu*.

ED seizes properties of Serum Institute co-founder

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday seized three immovable properties in Mumbai belonging to Zavarey Soli Poonawalla, co-founder of the Serum Institute of India, under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The ED is investigating a case of misuse of Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) under the provisions of the FEMA against Mr. Poonawalla and his family. As per the agency, "Mr. Poonawalla's name was found in the Panama Papers revelations regarding off-shore entities. The investigation has revealed Mr. Poonawalla and his family members had remitted foreign exchange abroad by misutilising the provisions of the LRS scheme."

Five more cheetahs to be released into wild at Kuno

They will be released into 'free-roaming conditions' before the onset of monsoon in June; twenty big cats have been brought from Namibia and South Africa since September 2022, two have died

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

No boundaries: Four cheetahs have been released into the wild so far, and one of them even ventured outside the national park. PTI

Five more cheetahs – three females and two males – will be released from the acclimatisation camps to "free-roaming conditions at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh before the onset of monsoon in June, the Union Environment Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The statement was based on a report submitted by an expert committee to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which is the nodal body for Project Cheetah. The committee members visited the KNP on April 30 and reviewed the current status of Project Cheetah.

Twenty cheetahs have been brought from Namibia and South Africa since September 2022 as part of a translocation programme to reintroduce the wild cat into Indian habitat. As part of their acclimatisation, the animals were housed in special enclosures. However, two of them died – one of kidney infection and the other of heart failure, following a strenuous hunt.

Long-term plan

The long-term plan to acclimatise the animals to Indian conditions is to gradually release them into the wild – though all the animals are radio-collared and the Madhya Pradesh State wildlife officials are tracking their movement – and keep adding more animals from Africa until a sizeable self-sustaining population is established in a decade or so, while accounting for natural mortality and acclimatisation-related challenges.

So far, four of the cheetahs have already been released into the wild – with one of them even ranging outside the Kuno National Park and venturing into farms in Uttar Pradesh. It had to be tranquillised and returned to the sanctuary.

The remaining cheetahs, the statement said, would remain in the acclimatisation camps for the duration of the monsoon season (June-September).

After September, when the monsoon ends, more animals would be released into the KNP or surrounding areas in "a planned manner" to the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. The cheetahs would be allowed to move out of the KNP and not necessarily recaptured unless they venture into areas where they are in "significant danger," the statement added.

Concern over space

Independent experts have raised concerns that the cheetahs had on average too little space and limited access to prey at the national park, and this would pose considerable problems for their eventual flourishing in India.

One of the scientists, who was associated with the study, told *The Hindu* that available space at the KNP – about 1,00,000 sq. km. in the park and 6,00,000 in the landscape surrounding the park – was adequate for 21 cheetahs. At present, there are 18.

DGCA asks Go First to stop selling flight tickets immediately

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The airline has total dues amounting to ₹11,463 to its various creditors.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday ordered Go First to immediately stop selling air tickets, and has also served it a show-cause notice before taking a decision to revoke the airline's permit to offer commercial flights.

"Go First has been directed to stop booking and sale of tickets directly or indirectly, with immediate effect and until further orders," the DGCA said in a press statement.

Additionally, the DGCA has issued a show-cause notice to the airline "for their failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner". It has asked Go First to reply within 15 days and said "further decision on the continuation of their Air Operators Certificate (AOC) will be taken on the basis of the reply".

The airline is awaiting an order from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on its insolvency plea and an interim moratorium to protect its aircraft from being re-possessed by lessors due to non payment of dues.

The airline has 28 out of 54 aircraft grounded due to delays from engine maker Pratt and Whitney in providing spares and servicing, what the airline has called as under-performing engines.

This, it said, led to a loss of over ₹10,000 crore for the airline. The airline has total dues amounting to ₹11,463 to its various creditors. As many as 77,000 passengers were affected after the airline cancelled 4,118 flights over a period of 30 days until May 6.

Scam exposed in purchase of diesel by Railways from national oil companies

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Payments made to national oil companies across 16 zones have come under the scanner.

A routine preventive check by the Vigilance Department has exposed a huge scam in the purchase of High Speed Diesel (HSD) by the Indian Railways from national oil companies in one of the zones.

According to Railways sources, an audit of HSD purchase by the North East Frontier Railway revealed excess payment to the tune of ₹243 crore made to the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited during January-September 2022.

The investigators informed the Railway Board of the irregularity and directed the Principal Financial Advisor, North East Frontier Railway, to recover the excess payment made to the oil companies. While asking other zones to check if any excess payment was made at their end, the Vigilance Department urged to "set up a system to avoid such irregularities in future".

'Under scanner'

After the alert, payments made to national oil companies across the 16 zones of the Indian Railways have come under the scanner.

"We will conduct an internal audit to check the payments made to oil companies. The Railways purchase HSD in huge quantity and even a small change will run into several crores of rupees," a senior official in the Southern Railway, who preferred not to be quoted, told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Explaining details of the excess payment, the Vigilance Department, in its letter to the Railway Board, said going by the invoices raised by the oil companies, the rates charged were found to be "25-40% more than the maximum retail prices of HSD at the nearest petrol pumps, thus abnormally increasing the cost of fuel to Railways".

Acting on the alert issued by the Vigilance Department, the North East Frontier Railway authorities took steps to recover part of the excess payment made to the oil companies and adjust the balance in subsequent bills. The excess payments were made in violation of Clause 12(a) of the Railway Board's Rate Contract with the oil companies, the sources added.

Sanjay Mishra won't continue as ED chief beyond Nov.: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday informed the Supreme Court that Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure will not continue in office beyond November 2023.

Appearing before a three-judge Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said Mr. Mishra was given his third extension keeping in view the ongoing evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The Supreme court reserved the petitions challenging the "piecemeal" extensions granted to Mr. Mishra, for judgment.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for a petitioner, submitted that such short tenures affected institutional integrity.

In the last hearing, the top court had asked whether Mr. Mishra was so "indispensable" to the ED and whether the government could find no other officer to replace him.

"This officer [Mr. Mishra] cannot continue after November 2023. But right now the peer review of FATF is going on. It was supposed to happen in 2019, but could not due to COVID... Nobody is indispensable. No organisation becomes ineffective in the absence of one particular individual, but the presence of an officer who has been hearing the institution for the past three years makes a difference," Mr. Mehta submitted.

The Solicitor-General argued that the ED Director was not a promotional post, so nobody was losing a career opportunity due to the extension of Mr. Mishra's tenure.

In 2021, the Supreme Court had categorically directed the government to not give any further extension to Mr. Mishra.

Low pressure area forming over Bay of Bengal: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A low pressure area, a precursor to a cyclone, has formed over the southeastern Bay of Bengal and this would likely morph into a cyclone by Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

Cyclone Mocha, though it is yet to be formally named so, is likely to rage along the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and head north towards Bangladesh and Myanmar.

As of now, it is expected to eventually grow into a very severe cyclonic storm.

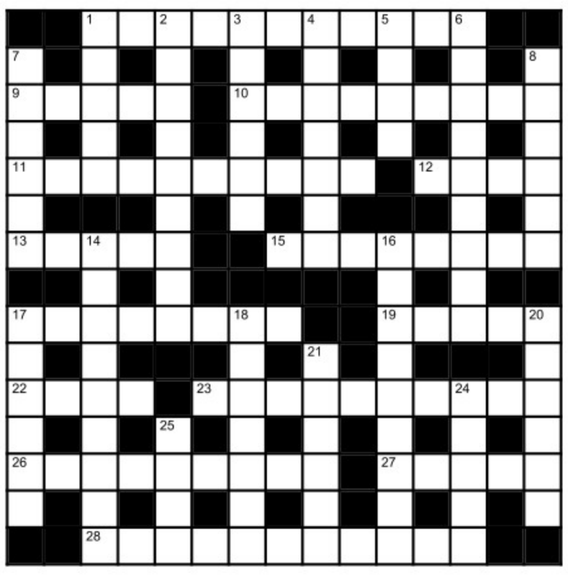
The development of the cyclone would mean light or moderate rainfall at most places over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands starting Monday, and it would become heavier by May 12. The sea over the southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea would be "very rough" until May 12.

TH CROSSWORD + 13860

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Foresee receiving gold endlessly and deliver a tirade? It can make you cough! (11)
9 Apropos one fight in the ring (5)
10 Fat baker's preparation for morning meal (9)
11 Saw female and male descendant hugging Earl about one around the end of June (4,4,2)
12 Charlie gets aged and frosty (4)
13 Fish found in ocean-front route (5)
15 The ones that got away from Spanish headland with key on Sunday (8)
17 Time to save for any dairy preparation (5,3)
19 Old American is admitting son in spring (5)
22 Last of men is following first lady! Not odd? (4)
23 Simple quarrels results in people approaching courts for relief (10)
26 I drag arms around carnival in New Orleans (5,4)
27 Bank's electrical vehicle captured by general (5)
28 Bland celery prepared for Middle Eastern performer (5,6)

Down

1 English military officer on island's bacteria (1,4)
2 A person getting some of the answers in this puzzle may have to behave like this with a doctor (9)
3 Wired taxi with a sort of light source (6)
4 Oppressive emperor endlessly wearing spectacles with American marking (7)
5 Tutankhamen's hieroglyphic symbol (4)
6 Silly owlets ate pieces of kitchen linen (3,6)
7 On return, flier permitted solid piece of medicine (6)
8 European student throwing away book composed musical pieces (6)
14 A love-bird makes camouflage colour (5,4)
16 A mail on love with catholic sheltering fifty one connected to early followers of Christ (9)
17 I hear spacious sinuses sometimes become thus when filled with liquid (6)
18 Criminal leading headless clergy gets hay fever (7)
20 Nurse's superb in service, having no bad habit (6)
21 Some gypsies take nap in the afternoon (6)
24 Victor's wearing wrinkled free coat (5)
25 Check Clinton (4)

SUDOKU

							6	
					4	7		1
		7		3	5	9	2	
8						5		2
	1			6			3	
7		4						8
	2	5	7	1		3		
3		6	4					
	4							

No.SS5793 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	1	7	8	6	3	4
6	7	4	5	3	9	1	8	2
8	3	1	2	4	6	5	7	9
5	2	7	3	9	4	8	6	1
1	4	6	8	2	7	3	9	5
3	9	8	6	5	1	4	2	7
2	6	5	9	1	3	7	4	8
4	1	3	7	8	2	9	5	6
7	8	9	4	6	5	2	1	3

FAITH

Hanuman, the nonpareil

It is often believed that praying to Hanuman will help one achieve one's goals, as he is the only one who can help overcome hurdles. Throughout the Ramayana he exemplifies valour, conduct, integrity, complete focus and is impervious to temptation. Reposing total faith in Rama, he obeys his peers and seniors alike with unquestioning loyalty and yet, when needed, brings to the table the characteristics of a top notch diplomat. Above all, his inner strength far outstrips his physical stamina, which helps him complete any given task without much ado, said Dr. Sudha Seshayyan in a discourse.

Tasked with crossing the ocean to Lanka (100 yojanas), and return, he is asked by Jambhavan if he is up to the task, Angada having confessed that he cannot do the return trip. Hanuman is so focused on his journey that when Mainaka mountain invites him to rest on her, saying all Ikshvaku clan have broken journey on many occasions and rested on her, he refuses. Most of us, when tasked with something always welcome a coffee break, but Hanuman, focused on the task, says, "I will rest on my return journey."

Faith in Rama is his hallmark. When Sita asks him, in Ashoka Vana, "How did you cross the ocean, I was petrified when I saw it from the Vimana," Hanuman replies, "Everyone chants Rama namam to cross the ocean of life and death. I did the same to cross the ocean." Also, he is someone who can think on his feet. When Jambhavan asks him to fetch certain herbs from the Sanjeevi mountain, Hanuman, having forgotten the list of herbs to pick, carries the entire mountain to the battlefield.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Abdul Samad redeemed himself, says Sunrisers coach Badani

Sunrisers Hyderabad batting coach Hemang Badani said Abdul Samad redeemed himself after past failures with a match-winning effort against Rajasthan Royals. "It will give a lot of belief to guys like Samad... he missed out on a couple of times and to have done it here, the next time he will bat differently in a similar situation," said Badani.

A THIN LINE

Samson rues the no-ball that ruined Sandeep, Royals' day

Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson on Sunday rued the no-ball that cost his side the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "Maybe there might be a small change in mindset for a few seconds when you feel that the job is done... that's the nature of this game. But, you can't step over the line at that point of time," said Samson.

NEW APPROACH

I have been intentional about trying to get hundreds: du Plessis

Faf du Plessis has been one of the most important pillars of RCB batting and has played some fantastic innings to take the team to victory. He told *RCB Bold Diaries* "I have really been quite intentional about trying to get hundreds, finding gears I can work through mid-innings period and try and get to innings as we can get 75 plus."

HYBRID MODEL REJECTED

Asian Cricket Council moves Asia Cup out of Pakistan

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Monday decided to move the Asia Cup out of Pakistan after PCB's proposal to host the tournament on a 'hybrid model' was rejected by the member nations. ACC chairman Jay Shah, *in pic*, will need to convene an Executive Boday meeting to make the decision official.

Russell and Rinku help KKR pull off a thrilling win

The former slams a 23-ball 42 while the latter smashes a four off the final delivery; Nitish Rana's half-century keeps the hosts' chase on course; spinners Varun, Suyash and Narine limit PBKS to 179

Knight Riders' day out: Russell put on a power show to swing the chase Kolkata's way before Rinku produced the killer blow. Varun and Nitish, too, played crucial roles. K.R. DEEPAK

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS

Prabhsimran Singh c Gurbaz b Harshit 12 *(8b, 3x4)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Arora b Nitish 57 *(47b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa c Gurbaz b Harshit 0 *(3b)*, Liam Livingstone lbw b Varun 15 *(9b, 3x4)*, Jitesh Sharma c Gurbaz b Varun 21 *(18b, 2x6)*, Sam Curran c Gurbaz b Suyash 4 *(9b)*, Rishi Dhawan b Varun 19 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shahrukh Khan (not out) 21 *(8b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Harpreet Brar (not out) 17 *(9b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-4, nb-2): 13; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 179.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Prabhsimran, 1.6 overs), 2-29 (Rajapaksa, 3.4), 3-53 (Livingstone, 5.3), 4-106 (Jitesh, 12.3), 5-119 (Dhawan, 14.4), 6-139 (Rishi, 16.5), 7-139 (Curran, 17.2).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Arora 3-0-32-0, Harshit 3-0-33-2, Russell 1-0-19-0, Varun 4-0-26-3, Suyash 4-0-26-1, Narine 4-0-29-0, Nitish 1-0-7-1.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Jason Roy **(Impact Player in place of Suyash)** c Shahrukh b Brar 38 *(24b, 8x4)*, Rahmanullah Gurbaz lbw b Ellis 15 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Nitish Rana c Livingstone b Rahul Chahar 51 *(38b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Livingstone b Rahul Chahar 11 *(13b)*, Andre Russell run out 42 *(23b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 21 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shardul Thakur (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 182.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-38 (Gurbaz, 4.4), 2-64 (Roy, 7.2), 3-115 (Venkatesh, 13.4), 4-124 (Nitish, 15.2), 5-178 (Russell, 19.5).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING

Rishi 2-0-15-0, Arshdeep 4-0-39-0, Ellis **(Impact Player in place of Rajapaksa)** 4-0-29-1, Curran 3-0-44-0, Livingstone 2-0-27-0, Brar 1-0-4-1, Rahul Chahar 4-0-23-2.

Toss: Kings; **PoM:** Russell.

Knight Riders won by five wickets off the final delivery.

Next assignment

KKR: May 11 **vs. RR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 13 **vs. DC**
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

IPL-16

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Rinku Singh smashed a boundary off the final delivery to power Kolkata Knight Riders to a five-wicket win over Punjab Kings in an Indian Premier League fixture at the Eden Gardens on Monday.

Moments earlier, Andre Russell's whirlwind knock (42, 23b, 3x4, 3x6) had carried Knight Riders to the cusp. The West Indian hammered three sixes as 20 runs came off Sam Curran in the 19th over. The equation was down to six from six balls, but a spirited Arshdeep Singh kept Kings in the hunt till the final ball. With two needed, Rinku (21 n.o., 10b, 2x4, 1x6) sealed it with a four. Russell and Rinku figured in a 54-run stand off 27 balls to swing the game Knight Riders' way.

Brisk start

Chasing a target of 180, Knight Riders started on a brisk note and reached 52 for one in the PowerPlay.

Jason Roy, employed as the Impact Player, set the tone with a flurry of boundaries. The England batter scored 38 (24b, 8x4) before mistiming a sweep off left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar.

Captain Nitish Rana (51) and Venkatesh Iyer were involved in a 51-run third-wicket stand and took Kolkata past the 100-mark. But the asking rate and pressure kept mounting when Russell and Rinku stepped up to the plate.

Earlier, skipper Shikhar Dhawan (57, 47b, 9x4, 1x6) led from the front before Shahrukh Khan (21 n.o., 8b, 3x4, 1x6) and Harpreet Brar (17 n.o., 9b, 2x4, 1x6) produced fireworks towards the end to power Kings to a challenging total.

Kings got off to a good start as the opening pair of Prabhsimran Singh and Dhawan stroked freely and hit a few boundaries. But Knight Riders got rid of Prabhsimran in the second over and Bhanuka Rajapaksa in the fourth, both falling to Harshit Rana.

Dangerman Liam Livingstone (15) was sent back by Varun Chakaravarthy in the bowler's first over. The mystery spinner went on to finish with impressive figures of three for 26, his other victims being Jitesh Sharma (caught behind) and Rishi Dhawan (bowled). In the death overs, Shahrukh and Brar struck lusty blows to add 40 from 16 balls and take Kings to 179, but it wasn't enough.

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	11	8	3	0	16	0.951
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	4	1	13	0.409
Lucknow Super Giants	11	5	5	1	11	0.294
Rajasthan Royals	11	5	6	0	10	0.388
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	5	6	0	10	-0.079
Royal Challengers	10	5	5	0	10	-0.209
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	0	10	-0.441
Mumbai Indians	10	5	5	0	10	-0.454
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	4	6	0	8	-0.472
Delhi Capitals	10	4	6	0	8	-0.529

After the KKR-PBKS match on May 8

Race for the caps

ORANGE

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
du Plessis (RCB)	10	511	84	157.71	0/5
Jaiswal (RR)	11	477	124	160.60	1/3
Gill (GT)	11	469	94*	143.42	0/4
Conway (CSK)	10	458	92*	139.20	0/5
Kohli (RCB)	10	419	82*	135.16	0/6
Buttler (RR)	11	392	95	143.58	0/4

PURPLE

	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Shami (GT)	11	19	4/11	7.23	1/0
Rashid Khan (GT)	11	19	3/14	8.09	0/0
Deshpande (CSK)	11	19	3/45	10.33	0/0
Chawla (MI)	10	17	3/22	7.17	0/0
Varun (KKR)	11	17	4/15	7.84	1/0
Chahal (RR)	11	17	4/17	8.08	2/0

After the KKR-PBKS match on May 8

Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers will vie to move above mid-table muddle

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League may have been starting to head towards its business end, but the qualification scenario is far from being certain so far with just five points differentiating nine of the 10 teams.

It's no wonder then that while the fans will be looking forward to Tuesday night's tussle at the Wankhede Stadium as a face-off between Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both the teams will be eager to pocket two points and steer clear of the mid-table muddle.

Evenly poised: MI and RCB have 10 points each from as many games, and five wins and as many losses apiece. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Heading into the penultimate week of the league stage, Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore have 10 points each from as many games.

Their inconsistency reflects in the fact that they have five wins and as many losses apiece so far.

The visiting outfit will be hoping for its top-three, especially Glenn Maxwell who has continued to be hot and cold, to fire. Should Mahipal Lomror continue his superlative form from the weekend, it could give Kohli the license to up the ante in the middle overs.

Today's match

MUMBAI INDIANS vs. ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 31

MI 17 | RCB 14

PREVIOUS MEETING

RCB won by **eight wickets**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

For Mumbai Indians, promising Tilak Varma who missed the last game due to a niggle, remained absent from Monday's pre-match nets.

Interestingly, Chris Jordan, the England all-rounder who has been with the entourage for a while but yet to be officially inducted into the squad, had a long hit in the nets.

Should he be formally included ahead of Tuesday's game, MI will be looking forward to his death-over bowling more than big-hitting to come good against his former outfit.

Kishan replaces Rahul in India squad for WTC final

Kishan. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Ishan Kishan will replace the injured K.L. Rahul in the India squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia.

Wicketkeeper-batter Kishan is yet to earn a Test cap. K.S. Bharat is the other wicketkeeper in the squad.

Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat, who sustained a shoulder injury while bowling in the nets, is undergoing strength and rehab sessions at NCA. A decision on Unadkat's participation in the WTC final will be taken later.

The BCCI medical team is monitoring the progress of fast bowler Umesh Yadav, who is currently under the care of the Kolkata Knight Riders medical team. Umesh had sustained a minor left hamstring injury during an IPL match last month.

The WTC final will commence at The Oval (London) on June 7.

India's squad for WTC final:

Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, K.S. Bharat (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat and Ishan Kishan (wk); **Standbyes:** Ruturaj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar and Suryakumar Yadav.

INBRIEF

Messi returns to training with PSG after suspension

Lionel Messi returned to training with Paris Saint-Germain on Monday six days after he was suspended for going on an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia. "Leo Messi returns to training Monday morning," tweeted the club along with a photo of the 35-year-old in action. His return means it likely he will feature in PSG's home match with relegation-threatened Ajaccio next Saturday.

Thailand bests Australia to win LPGA International

Thailand captured the LPGA International crown in San Francisco on Sunday, blanking Australia 3-0 in the championship match, to complete a near-perfect run in the global team event. USA defeated Sweden 2-1 in the third-place match.

Ghosal goes down fighting to Ellias in pre-quarterfinals

Saurav Ghosal lost a gruelling five-match battle against World No.1 Diego Ellias in the pre-quarterfinals of the World Championship here. Ghosal even had a couple of match balls before going down 11-9, 11-4, 6-11, 3-11, 10-12 on Sunday night. Mahesh Mangaonkar, Ramit Tandon and qualifier Abhay Singh had lost their first round matches. Joshna Chinappa lost to USA's Olivia Clyne in the opening round.

Ajith claims ninth spot, finishes ahead of Achinta

N. Ajith claimed the ninth position to finish a slot above Achinta Sheuli in the men's 73kg competition at the Asian weightlifting championships in Jinju. Ajith lifted 139kg in snatch and 168kg in clean and jerk to total 307kg, 2kg clear of his compatriot. Achinta, who had done 313kg in the Commonwealth Games, performed 140kg in snatch and 165kg in clean and jerk. Both Indians competed in Group-B. Achinta – recovering from a back issue – had aggregated 314kg, which was 2kg less than his best effort achieved in December 2021. Ajith had lifted 311kg.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 & 7.30 a.m.

Ireland vs Bangladesh: 1st ODI, FanCode, 3.15 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Verstappen wins ahead of Perez, extends championship lead

Red Bull takes its fourth one-two finish in five races; Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso finishes a distant third — for the fourth time this season — after starting on the front row

MIAMI GP

Reuters
MIAMI

Max Verstappen won the Miami Grand Prix from ninth on the starting grid, with the fastest lap, on Sunday to extend his Formula One championship lead over Red Bull team mate Sergio Perez.

Red Bull's fourth one-two finish in five races dealt a blow to Mexican Perez's hopes of wresting the overall lead from the double world champion in Miami after securing pole position on Saturday.

Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso finished a distant third, for the fourth time this season, after starting on the front row.

Verstappen, winner of last year's inaugural Miami Grand Prix, suffered a setback in qualifying when Ferrari's Charles Leclerc crashed and denied the Dutchman a final flying lap that almost certainly would have put him on the front row after he dominated the practice sessions.

But he was immediately on the charge, moving up into fourth after 10 laps

Alonso had predicted that Verstappen would be filling his mirrors after 25 laps.

That guess proved wildly wrong as Verstappen blitzed past Alonso's Aston Martin on the 15th lap to once again leave the fight for top spot on the podium between the two Red Bulls.

Perez was the first to pit, leaving Verstappen to put in an extended run at the front before finally stopping for new tyres with just 11 laps to go and handing back the lead briefly to his Mexican team mate.

On fresher tyres, Verstappen was immediately on the prowl and two laps later he was in front of Perez.

From there it was business as usual, with the two Red Bulls easing through the final laps unchallenged for another one-two result.

On the charge: Starting ninth on the grid, Verstappen needed only 15 laps to blitz into the fight for the top two spots. REUTERS

The results (provisional): 1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 57 laps, 1:27:38.241; 2. Perez (Red Bull), +5.384 seconds; 3. Alonso (Aston Martin), +26.305; 4. Russell (Mercedes), +33.229; 5. Sainz (Ferrari), +42.511; 6. Hamilton (Mercedes), +51.249; 7. Leclerc (Ferrari), +52.988; 8. Gasly (Alpine), +55.670; 9. Ocon (Alpine), +58.123; 10. Magnussen (Haas), +1:02.945; 11.Tsunoda (Alphatauri), +1:04.309; 12. Stroll (Aston Martin), +1:04.754; 13. Bottas (Alfa Romeo Racing), +1:11.637; 14. Albon (Williams), +1:12.861; 15. Hulkenberg (Haas), +1:14.950; 16. Zhou (Alfa Romeo Racing), +1:18.440; 17. Norris (McLaren), +1:27.717; 18. De Vries (Alphatauri), +1:28.949; 19. Piastri (McLaren), +1 lap; 20. Sargeant (Williams), +1 lap.

Max Verstappen. REUTERS

World championship standings: 1. Verstappen, 119 points; 2. Perez, 105; 3. Alonso, 75; 4. Hamilton, 56; 5. Sainz, 44; 6. Russell, 40; 7. Leclerc, 34; 8. Stroll, 27; 9. Norris, 10; 10. Gasly, 8; 11. Hulkenberg, 6; 12. Ocon, 6; 13. Bottas, 4; 14. Piastri, 4; 15. Zhou, 2; 16. Tsunoda, 2; 17. Magnussen, 2; 18. Albon, 1.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 224; 2. Aston Martin 102; 3. Mercedes 96; 4. Ferrari 78; 5. McLaren 14; 6. Alpine 14; 7. Haas 8; 8. Alfa Romeo 6; 9. Alphatauri 2; 10. Williams 1.

Savita to lead India for Australia tour

HOCKEY

Agencies
NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Monday named a 20-member national women's team for a three-match series in Australia, to be held in Adelaide from May 18.

They will also play two games against Australia 'A'. The tour will be part of the team's preparations ahead of the all-important Hangzhou Asian Games.

The Indian team will be led by ace goalkeeper Savita. She will be assisted by Deep Grace Ekka as the team's vice captain.

Speaking about the team selection, chief coach Janneke Scopman said, "We are excited to have international exposure again after two intense training blocks. Australia are a formidable opponent that loves to play attacking hockey with speed."

The team: Savita (capt.), Deep Grace Ekka (vice-capt.), Bichu Devi Kharibam, Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Udita, Gurjit Kaur, Nisha, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, Baljeet Kaur, Lalremsiami, Vandana Katariya, Sangita Kumari and Sharmila Devi.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Another one in the kitty: Pankaj Advani with the winner's trophy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Advani triumphs

Pankaj Advani defeated Sourav Kothari 6-2 (68-15, 13-134(53-67), 77-05, 08-76, 68-17, 68-38, 134(56-78)-00, 75(54)-08) to win the Bangalore Snooker Academy all-India Open championship on Monday.

All-round show by Niraj

Niraj's all-round effort (83 & 3/13) was instrumental in KCC Gurukul's 38-run win over Union Gymkhana Belgaum in the Tiger Cup under-12 cricket tournament on Monday.

The scores: Magadi CA 82 in 27.2 overs (Sanjit Sathish 25) lost to Play Smart 86/1 in 15.4 overs (R. Pavandeep 57). KCC Gurukul 189/4 in 30 overs (Niraj 83, Deep 79) bt Union Gymkhana Belgaum 151 in 27.3 overs (Farhan Sheikh 52, Mohammed Hamza 27, Niraj 3/13).

Ambedkar FC posts win

Ambedkar FC defeated Bangalore Reds FC 4-2 in the BDFA C-division football league on Monday.

The results: Vivekananda 3 (Md. Shibin 6, S. Nizam 32, N. Naveen Kumar 37) bt Sporting Youths 0; Ambedkar 4 (Shanmugam 30+1, Lourth Lawrence 37, 45, Sathish Kumar 60+2) bt Bangalore Reds 2 (Kevin 22, Seshagopalan 58); ISRO 2 (J. Sreenivas 13, Vinay Mor 54) bt Triveni 1 (Karthik 9); Vijayanagara 1 (Arun Naskar 52) bt Young Muslims 0.

Jadhav keen to make the most of RCB call-up

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

At the start of the previous domestic season, he was written off as a cricketer, not even finding a place in Maharashtra's T20 squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. But having struck form in the Ranji Trophy, Kedar Jadhav is gunning to make the most of an unexpected call up by Royal Challengers Bangalore midway through IPL-16.

Even before he joined Jio Cinema as the face of its Marathi commentary team, Jadhav was in touch with RCB head coach Sanjay Bangar.

Back in the mix: Jadhav will hope to resolve RCB's middle-order woes. SPORTZPICS/IPL

That helped him stay in shape over the last month, although he wasn't really having a hit in the nets regularly.

"As a professional cricketer, you have to be prepared all the time. Everyday practice also doesn't help sometimes, so that the hunger comes back. Took a break after the Ranji Trophy. Just before the IPL, I practised for 10-15 days, since there were murmurs (of a call-up). Then on, it's only been primarily fitness while managing the commentary duties," Jadhav said.

"Sanjay bhai told me we needed some experience in the middle order plus the form that I was in, it worked in my favour."

Now that he has been included in the starting line-up, although he couldn't get an opportunity to bat in Delhi over the weekend, Jadhav looks to resolve RCB's middle-order woes.

Alcaraz battles past Struff, retains Madrid title

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz defended his Madrid Open title with a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Jan-Lennard Struff on Sunday.

The US Open champion earned his 10th career title and can reclaim the world top ranking from Novak Djokovic simply by playing a single match at the Rome Masters next week, before the French Open.

Alcaraz. AP

Alcaraz continued his Roland Garros build-up by adding the Madrid trophy to victories in Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Indian Wells this year, although he was below his vibrant best against lucky loser Struff, the World No. 65.

The 20-year-old was given a tricky time by his German opponent, but eventually became the youngest player since Rafael Nadal in 2006 to defend an ATP Masters 1000 title.

"Today I enjoyed it in parts, in other parts I suffered more than I enjoyed it.

"But it's what you have to live with," said Alcaraz.

Sachin posts easy win over Novac

WORLD BOXING

Sports Bureau

A 2021 World youth champion in 56kg, Sachin Siwach Junior (54kg) registered a convincing 5-0 win over Moldovan Serghei Novac to advance to the last 16 of the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Monday.

Sachin's victory in the round-of-32 bout enabled him to set up a pre-quarterfinal clash with top-seeded Worlds and Asian silver medallist Makhmud Sabyrkhan of Kazakhstan.

Southpaw Sachin, taller than his opponent, connected body and head shots from a long range to take the opening round 5-0 against Novac, who tried to close the gap and land a few on the target.

The Indian grew in confidence to exhibit more scoring shots from a distance and employed his fine defensive skills to dominate the second period as well.

Some impressive jabs and uppercuts helped Sachin dictate terms in the final round and make a winning start.

However, Govind Sahani (48kg) and Naveen Kumar (92kg), lost in the pre-quarterfinals.

Sahani was trounced 0-5 by top-seeded Worlds bronze medallist Sakhil Alakhverdovi of Georgia, while Naveen was outpunched 0-5 by Enmanuel Reyes of Spain.

De Gea blunder against West Ham costs Manchester United dear

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

David De Gea made a huge goalkeeping howler as Manchester United suffered a 1-0 defeat at West Ham on Sunday that threatens to send its season into a tailspin.

Just a few days ago United was heavy favourite to finish in the Premier League's top four and qualify for next season's Champions League but now it is wobbling badly while the Hammers look safe from relegation.

The result hinged on a catastrophic first-half error by De Gea, who let a tame shot from Said Benrahma squirm past him in the 27th minute after his team had largely dominated the opening period.

Coming unstuck: United's de Gea lets the ball squirm past him for West Ham's winner. REUTERS

De Gea's blunder came on the day on which he became the most-capped goalkeeper in Manchester United's history, appearing for the 540th time to move ahead of Alex Stepney.

United had been boosted by Arsenal's 2-0 win at third-placed Newcastle. But although it is in fourth place, it is now just one point ahead of red-hot Liverpool, although still with a game in hand.

West Ham is seven points clear of the drop zone.

The result: West Ham 1 (Benrahma 27) bt Manchester United 0.

India proves too good for Iran, wins 3-0

Sports Bureau

India opened its campaign with a 3-0 victory over Iran in Group-B of the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Monday.

Captain Sajid Lodi gave the chance for all three players in the team to get acclamatised to the conditions, and be prepared for tougher matches ahead. Rethin Pranav and Kriish Tyagi won singles matches. Aarjun Pandit partnered Kriish for doubles.

The results (league):
India bt Iran 3-0 (Rethin Pranav bt Mehrad Mansouri 6-3, 6-0; Kriish Tyagi bt Sam Pazoki 6-2, 6-4; Aarjun Pandit & Kriish Tyagi bt Mani Kardan & Mehrad Mansouri 6-3, 6-2).

Red-hot City, armed with Haaland, takes aim at Real Madrid

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
MADRID

Two of the best attacking teams in Europe face off in the Champions League semifinals this week, with Manchester City's record-seeking Erling Haaland going against Real Madrid's red-hot trio of Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Karim Benzema.

The addition of Haaland could be the difference for Pep Guardiola's team this time. He is five short of Cristiano Ronaldo's single-season record of 17 goals for Madrid in 2013-14.

Haaland added a new dimension to a City attack that played most of last season without a striker. Instead of focusing on always dominating possession, Guardiola has been happy to use Haaland as a weapon on the counterattack at times.

Madrid will stick to the formula that has worked well in recent years, with Vinicius, Benzema and Rodrygo taking turns to lead an attack that scored 25 goals in the Champions League this season – 15 of them coming from the trio. They scored eight of the team's 10 goals in the knockout stage alone.

The fixture: Real Madrid vs Manchester City, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).